

FENLAND  
NOTES & QUERIES.

A Quarterly Antiquarian Journal  
FOR THE FENLAND,

IN THE COUNTIES OF HUNTINGDON, CAMBRIDGE,  
LINCOLN, NORTHAMPTON, NORFOLK,  
AND SUFFOLK.

EDITED BY

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## PREFACE.

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*On the completion of the first Volume of "FENLAND NOTES AND QUERIES," the Editor desires to express his gratitude to the numerous Contributors who, during the past three years, have assisted him in making the Magazine a success. The support it has met with has more than justified its existence. It has on all sides been kindly and cordially received, not only amongst Antiquaries, but by others interested in the History and Folklore of the District. The utility and strength of such a Magazine depends chiefly upon its Contributors, and although a list of these is published in this Volume, there are of course many others who have concealed their identity under a nom de plume or by initials. Still to all the Editor's sincere thanks are due.*

*With the completion of this Volume the Magazine changes Editors. Pressure of other literary work has compelled Mr. Saunders to retire from that position, but the Magazine will gain immensely by the change, as the REV. W. D. SWEETING, M.A.,*

PREFACE.

*Vicar of Maxey, and formerly for many years Editor of "NORTHAMPTONSHIRE NOTES AND QUERIES," has consented to carry on the work. MR. SWEETING'S reputation as an Antiquary, and as the author of numerous Archæological Works, are so well known, that every reader of "FENLAND NOTES AND QUERIES" will be pleased to learn of his acceptance of the position. No one, however, is more pleased than the retiring Editor, who will never cease to be interested in the welfare of the Magazine over whose cradle he watched.*

W. H. B. S.

Peterborough, January, 1892.

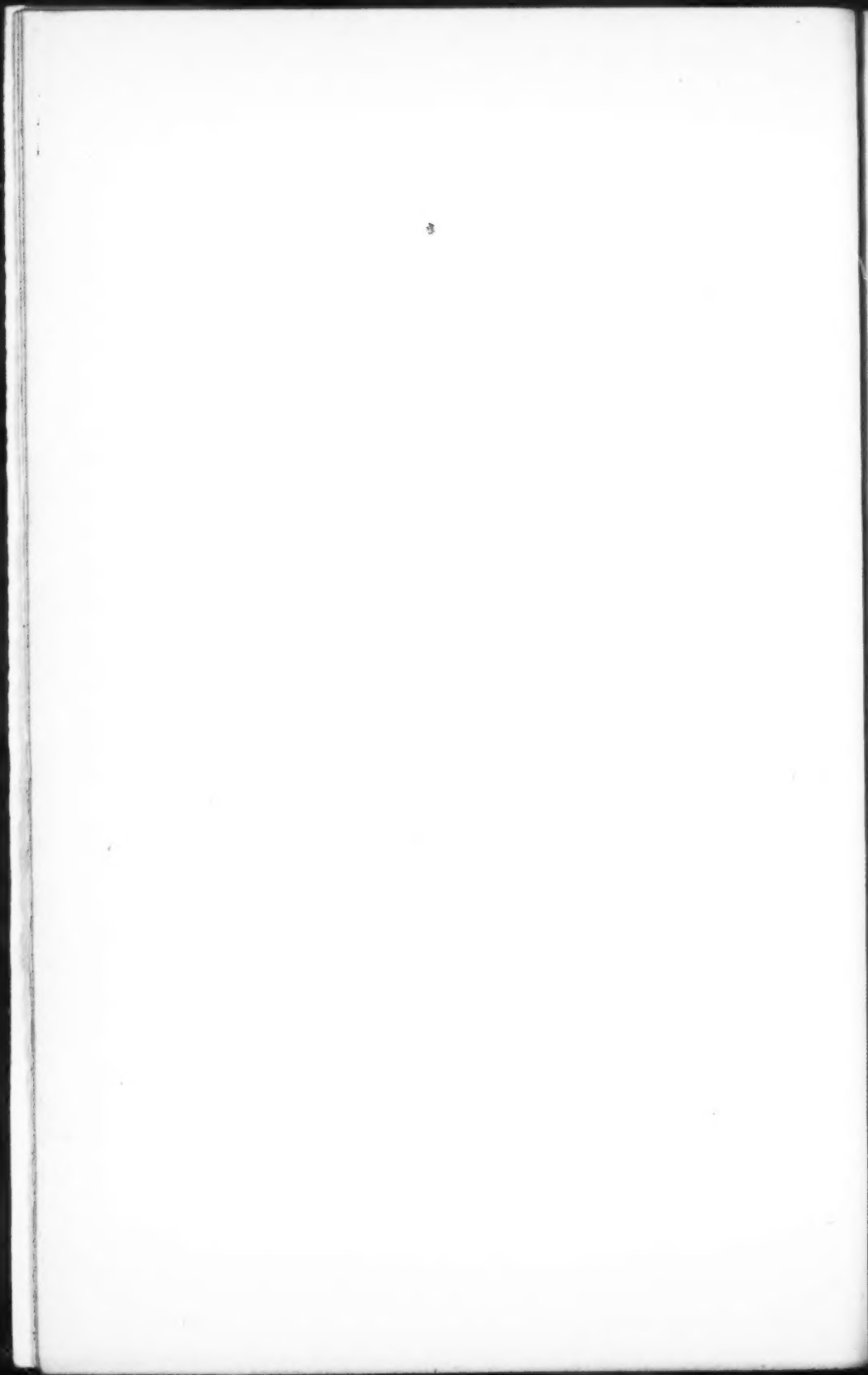
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## CONTRIBUTORS.

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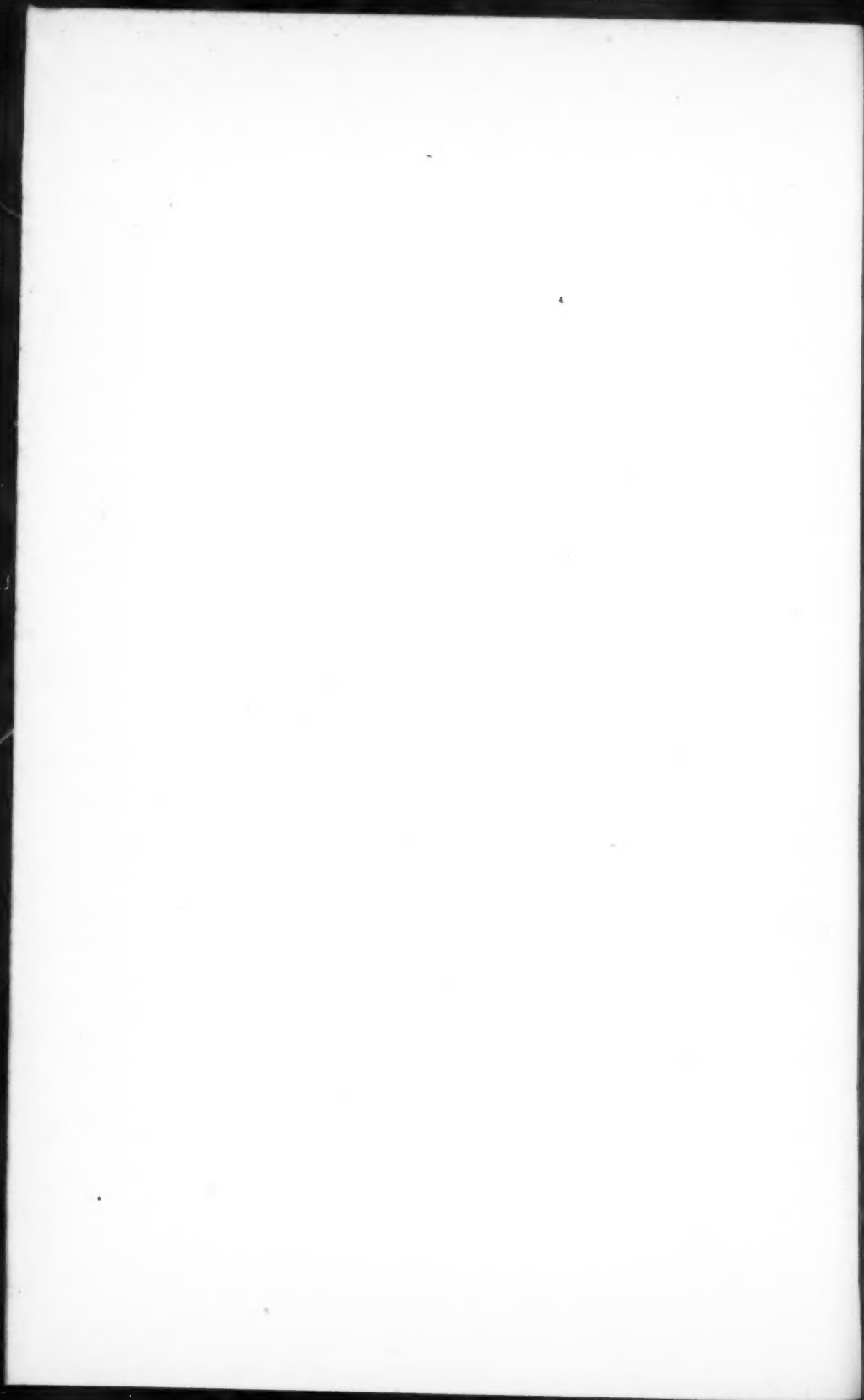
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## Fenland Notes and Queries.

1.—**Conflicting Theories in Fen History.**—It is an unpleasant task to oppose commonly received scientific authority, but in the interest of truth at times it is a necessary duty. By a comparison of notes, observers, although lacking scientific training, may either confirm or correct theories. The object of these remarks is to enquire into the age and circumstances connected with the Fen gravel as represented by the beds at Crowland. I believe Mr. Skertchley in his "Fenland" is only following a generally received opinion when he states in chap. ix, page 321,—“The oldest of the true Fen beds consists of gravels, and there are at least two sets of these. The older series consists of isolated patches at March, Crowland, Kyme, and elsewhere, and in reality are more ancient than the Fenland itself—they are, in point of fact, the remains of deposits formed in estuaries before the Fen basin was excavated—remains which alone have withstood the ravages of time. The newer gravels comprise the old beach which surrounded the Fenland when it was a great island-studded bay, and the gravel which was deposited upon its base at the same time just as similar beds are being formed in the Wash. Above these gravels come alternations of silt and peat, which bring the geological history down to the present time.” Speaking of the Beach and Floor gravels on page 555, the same authority says—“These gravels belong entirely to the history of the Fenland, and their connection with the peat and silt which overlay them is shewn by the occurrence here and there of patches of those materials in the gravel itself.” These two quotations embody the result of great experience and careful observation, but, so far as the Crowland gravel is concerned, the former statement is

incorrect, and I will state my reasons for disagreement. I have found, from careful and frequent examination of the Crowland bed, that it cannot be of such an ancient origin as is ascribed to it, for it is underlaid in almost every pit I have examined by a bed of peat containing trees and plants, contemporaneous with those found near, beneath the blue buttery clay. This statement is based upon the examination of excavations made in all parts of the bed, and extending through a long series of years, and proves that whatever may be the age of some portions of the drift, the Crowland beds are, comparatively speaking, of modern origin. The above discrepancy in the classification and date of one portion of gravel gives rise to well grounded scepticism as to very much that has of late been written regarding what is termed prehistoric man, and that without questioning the truth of the existence of human remains and workmanship in the gravel, and even beneath it. The Crowland bed covers, at least, a thousand acres, and has an almost uniform depth of about ten feet. Its fossils, as a rule, are similar to those found at Thorney, Eye, Werrington, and Deeping, and possibly a few of more recent date. It seems impossible to believe that its isolation is the result of a denuding process that removed all the parts surrounding from the district that intervenes between it and the highlands. On the north side of the bed, in 1880 or 1881, about two acres of land were dug up for repairing the Wash banks, the material removed consisted of blue clay, which rested on a buried forest on the same level, and connected with the wood and peat that underlies the gravel; and that there need be no doubt upon the subject, this forest rests right throughout on the boulder clay.

The gravel at Crowland has much in its nature resembling the undoubted glacial beds, but will its nature allow us to bring it within the great ice age? All those who saw the wild luxuriance of the subterranean forest above alluded to, will admit that during its growth the climate must have been temperate, if not tropical. At the close of this period the district was again inundated by the sea, and then was deposited by some means the bed of gravel and the blue clay that joins and blends into it all round. If it can be

shewn that an Arctic rigour again set in, then may we conceive that the land ice gripped the beach gravel, which was finally drifted from the neighbourhood of Eye into the place where it is now found. A fact which seems to favour this view exists in a small knoll of gravel at Palmer's Hill, midway between Eye and Crowland, in the very heart of the Fen—in the direct course the material would have to travel if this theory is correct.

In the presence of such conclusive evidence that some portion of the drift is of more recent date than the Alluvium, it will be hard to credit all the recent hypotheses regarding the antiquity of man. Without entering, at the present, into this subject, I will state a circumstance that came under my notice a few years since. At Crowland, in the immediate neighbourhood of a tumulus that had been exhumed, several excavations were made to obtain gravel, in one of the pits chipped flints were found almost to the bottom of the bed. The gravel itself is rather poor here in specimens of flint boulders, and very much would have to be searched if any quantity was required; and, undoubtedly, this portion had been disturbed, for the side of the pit shewed a semi-circular layer of chips, at least, two inches thick, containing fragments of worked stone. This depression was the workshop of the semi-savage who knew nothing even of polishing his rude stone implements, but was contented to use, either for war or the chase, spear heads and arrows of the most primitive description. This man, whose remains are as rude as anything known, lived on, and worked in drift that rested upon a forest growth; and, stranger still, mixed indiscriminately with his urns of baked gault, were found many specimens of Roman jars and vases made on a wheel.

This may appear a ravelled skein of statements, but they are facts, and cannot be argued away. Prehistoric man is thus brought into the range of recorded fact, and circumstances explain, to a great extent, the cause. The ancient Britons, driven back by the Roman invaders, found on the south-west border of the Fens a refuge and place of comparative safety. The island of Crowland, cut off from the highlands by a treacherous bog, or dense

forest, gave them a site for a home. Here they lived, undoubtedly, for a considerable time, extending to the greater part of the occupation of the Romans. The line of tumuli right across the gravel bed suggests that they were formed as well for purposes of defence as for sepulchre. The cinerary urns that were found intact, in their original position, were of the very rudest description of pottery, as were also the other fragments that were found in such abundance. Yet amongst these were several beautiful specimens of Roman ware, all more or less broken, and to add to the confusion, one bronze celt and several iron strikers were picked up. The reason I have recited these facts is to show that the discovery of human remains in the drift is not necessarily to prove that man existed before the historic period.

First, we have a buried forest underlying what the highest authorities have designated primary, or original, drift. The next is, that the remains of man of the most primitive description are found mixed with relics of a high state of civilization, some of them far down in the gravel itself. It must not be inferred from the above that I entirely dispute the statements of geologists as to the great antiquity of some human remains that have been found. But my experience and observations lead me to the conclusion that scientific men may easily be deceived by cursory observations, especially if they have a bias in favour of any particular theory. Living in the Fens, and daily observing their nature and history, I cannot but feel that much that has been written on them is altogether misleading. The establishment of the fact that a subterranean forest underlies the Fen gravel, and that much of the blue clay is contemporary, or nearly so, with this drift, gives certain data in computing its period in geologic time.

In a future paper I will endeavour to tabulate a few facts relating to the composition and history of the peat.

In conclusion. For many years I have been trying to form a complete collection of the different materials existing in the Crowland gravel, and on the 20th March, I found a specimen of hard coal which was well water worn, but still, upon being split,



showing its true coaly nature. This is the first and only specimen of this mineral I have ever discovered in the bed.

A. S. CANHAM, Crowland.

**2.—The Parish Registers of Whittlesey S. Mary.**—It is almost impossible to say with exactness at what date the register for this parish commences. In an iron chest in the church, containing the various volumes which form the register, there is a bundle of old pieces of parchment tied up with a string in a piece of brown paper. This is the earliest register. It is so decayed, cut, mouse-eaten, and so hopelessly in bits that it would be impossible to decipher one-fiftieth part of it. Some of the sheets look as if they had been used for cleaning metal utensils, or for cleaning varnish brushes. Picking out the best looking sheet, I found it was dated 1607, but I was informed that the earliest date to be traced is 1560. Next to this is a loose sheet of parchment, evidently torn out of a book, containing entries dating from 1662 to 1672. I was informed by Mr. John Fevre that this was supplied to the church by a gentleman living at a distance, who wrote saying that he had such a document and would forward it to the vicar if it would be of any value. Then comes the first preserved book, which starts in 1695 and ends in 1721. It is in excellent condition, the parchment a little discoloured by age and damp, but every entry from one end to the other is clear and distinct. The next volume is from 1721 to 1737. It is a much narrower book, of parchment, and also in an excellent state of preservation. The third volume is of paper, and covers the period from 1735 to 1805. After this the registers are divided, and are on the usual printed forms. One or two of these books are not in a good state of preservation. One especially ought to be rebound. The following are a few extracts from the first register book—1695 to 1721 :—

BAPTISMS.

June 28. 1702	Elizabeth	dau <sup>r</sup> of	a frenchchild.
Aug 18. 1706	R <sup>d</sup> Hyan, filius populi, cui mater, Eliz. Elwes.		
Sep. 15, 1706	Sarah Clarke of	Estree or Coates.	

Dec 12 1707	Mary Massy of Georg (y <sup>t</sup> was in ye warre) and Paliome.
Aug 8. 1708	Martha Cordel baptized when she was about 30 years of age.
April 20 1709	Joseph Gates baptiz'd when 24 years old.
Aug 21. 1712	John Hill of Jo & Mary strangers.
Oct 12 1712	Kezia Woodstock of Laurance & Gemima.
July 8. 1715	Gemima Woodstock of Laurance and Gemima.
July 16. 1718	Sarah Watson of Tho & Joane baptized when she was about 18 years old.
July 25 1718	An Watson baptized when she was about 28 years old, daughter of Tho & Joane.
Aug 3 1718	Sara Frisby baptized at 55 years old.
" " "	Hanna Howson of Rob <sup>t</sup> & Mary baptized when about 16 years old.
Aug 5 1718	Jo <sup>h</sup> Loomes baptiz'd when about 31 years old.
" " "	James Messenger baptized when about 20 years old

## BURIALS.

Nov 14 1698	Jane Langsdale widow in ye fenn at Ponds bridg.
June 27 1699	Richardson's child not baptized.
Aug. 16 1701	Dorothy Mitchel a stranger.
" 16 1701	Ann Selby a stranger.
" 16 1701	Annie Reay a stranger.
Sep 6 1701	Samuel Warren a Yorkshireman.
Nov 13 1701	W <sup>m</sup> Hease a Scotchman.
Dec 8 1701	Hen Forster a Yorkshireman.
Dec 21 1701	Robert Smith of Coates an old Quaker.
Dec 19 1701	W <sup>m</sup> Wiseman
" 24 "	Thos. Wiseman } Gents. brothers.
Jan 7 1703	Ezah Yates a stranger.
July 3 1703	Alice Briggs daur. of John & Mary drowned.
" 12 1703	Robt Hemment son of Henry, drowned.
Aug 7 1703	Thomas Anger a town child.
Oct 4 1703	W <sup>m</sup> Hoggard burried by the town.
Ap. 8 1707	Stephen Bishop in y <sup>e</sup> Quakers yard.
July 13 1707	Mary Snowden a stranger.
Aug 21 1707	Christian Kormihil a hylander in Scotlnd.
Jan 11 1708	A stranger out of Yorkshire.
Feb. 10 1708	Francis Gambal ye parish clerk & a sweet singer.
March 24 1708	John Claypole an Oliverian soldier.
May 30 1708	Alice Boon d <sup>r</sup> of Tho. drowned.

Jan 6 1710 An Curtise of Henry drowned.  
 July 16 1710 Susanna Harly drowned.  
 Dec 30 1711 Amy Payne 104 years old when she died and had  
 her memory perfect to y<sup>e</sup> last.

Ann Bull widow gave a brass branch with six candlesticks in it to  
 St. Mary's Church August 6. A 1712 it cost 2. 7. 0

1713 Buried of ye small pox this year about 68.

This year 1713 y<sup>e</sup> small pox was so rife in Whittlesea as had nev<sup>r</sup>  
 been in y<sup>e</sup> memory of man.

March 27. 1714 An King a stranger.

About the year 1706 Patrick Bp of Ely, wrote to me to give him a  
 true account of the yearly value of St Mary's & St Andrew's  
 Churches in Whittlesea & w<sup>ch</sup> I did. Hereupon the Bishop  
 recommended them to the stewards of Queen Ann's Bounty as  
 proper objects for an augmentation. About the year 1713 the  
 first lotts were drawn & a lott of two hundred pounds fell to St  
 Mary's Church. B<sup>t</sup> I was never able to obtain either principal  
 or interest while White Kennet Bishop of Peterborow under-  
 took the matter & in the month of October 1722 he secured y<sup>e</sup>  
 200<sup>l</sup> & all the arrears of interest, 76<sup>l</sup> to the everlasting honor  
 of that great good bishop. And here follows a true terrar of  
 the land bought of William Speechly with the 200<sup>l</sup> in the year  
 1728.

At the end of this register book is the following entry :—

October 16. 1739. A Corporation Cutt being made through y<sup>e</sup> 4  
 gross comons (be they more or less) near Stonehill & west end  
 of those comons being endanger'd to be swallow'd up by Eliz:  
 Forster, whose land joins to the s<sup>d</sup> comons on y<sup>e</sup> west to prevent  
 her wicked designs I desired John Loomes jun<sup>r</sup> to survey the  
 said comons whi<sup>ch</sup> he did Octb: 16: 1739 & writ w<sup>th</sup> his own  
 hands first as under written by me Tho: Topping, vicar of St  
 Andrews in Whittlesea.

Gross comons belonging to ye churches of Whittlesea, liing on ye  
 Norte side of Stonchil close one akre three roods & twenty five  
 poles (liing East of y<sup>e</sup> Corporation Cutt) and the other piece at  
 y<sup>e</sup> West or lying West of y<sup>e</sup> Corporation Cutt, & siding y<sup>e</sup> river  
 One akre & thirty six poles liing next to Stonehil Dole East  
 end both pieces siding y<sup>e</sup> river call'd Moorton's Leam.

I came frò Church Brampton 3 miles frò Northampton to Whittlesea  
 in the Isle of Ely on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of May 1701 to be school-  
 master of y<sup>e</sup> Church's school & to be Mr. Masons' (y<sup>n</sup> minister  
 of Whittlesea) his curat at Morborn in Huntingdonshire,  
 belonging to him also when I came hither one Tozer Forster  
 a cunning man & not too honest was in possession of the 4 gross  
 comons, be they more or less & held them while Rev. Mason  
 died w<sup>ch</sup> was on y<sup>e</sup> 22nd day of September 1708. By a further

humble application to Georg. William, & Edward Downes y<sup>n</sup> lords of y<sup>e</sup> manor I obtained y<sup>e</sup> Donative of St. Mary's Church. & likewise by y<sup>e</sup> assistance of Mr. Twells y<sup>n</sup> secretary of y<sup>e</sup> presentations I obtained from Sr Nathan Wright y<sup>n</sup> Lord Keeper of y<sup>e</sup> Great Seal of England, y<sup>e</sup> vicaridge of St Andrew's Church in Whittlesea. After this Tozer Forster held ye same gross comons of me, & y<sup>e</sup> year 1707 he took a lease of me for 21 years paising down five pounds & y<sup>e</sup> yearly rent of one pound July y<sup>e</sup> 3 1714 Toz. Forster died & his daughters aforesd held y<sup>e</sup> land while y<sup>e</sup> lease w<sup>ch</sup> was for 21 years expired w<sup>ch</sup> was at Lady Day 1728 Then the 3 daughters of Toz. Forster applied to me for y<sup>e</sup> same gross comons during my life & it was agreed on by both parties they paying unto me a guinea & a half a guinea upon entrance & y<sup>e</sup> old rent of 20 shillings yearly. When Tozer Forster died there was a great rumor spread abroad about y<sup>e</sup> parish y<sup>t</sup> he had robb'd the churches of some part of the gross comons aforesd, & to still ye noise of ye people I was forced to apply to ye jurors of the Homage & to entreat them to go down to Stonehill and to set out y<sup>e</sup> bounds & limits of these gross comons w<sup>ch</sup> they did at Michaelmas Court 1714 The jurors names y<sup>n</sup> were vide Homage book of St Mary's 1714 as follows: viz<sup>t</sup> Adam Kelful, Abram Houshold, Tho. Speechley, Tho. Golding, Will Baly, Geo. Watson, Rob. Smith, Jo<sup>n</sup> Ground, Tho. Aveling, Ric. Loomes, Will Clipson, Tho. Clipson, Tho. Ground, Rob. Ground, Geo. Claxon, Tho. Boon. All these jurymen true men and good viewed ye land & ordered me to put down oaken stoopes into ye ground to divide y<sup>e</sup> church land fro y<sup>e</sup> land of y<sup>e</sup> three sisters Mary Forster, Frances Staff a wid<sup>w</sup> sister & Eliz. Forster [Here there is an erasure.] For y<sup>e</sup> view of y<sup>e</sup> 16 jurors I paid them 16<sup>s</sup> & for ye 3 oaken stoops beaten down deep into ye ground to set bounds I paid James Richardson carpenter 8 Things continued in this condition while y<sup>e</sup> year 1730 in or ab<sup>t</sup> w<sup>ch</sup> year the corporation having occasion for gravel by ye perswation or threats of [name erased.] Eliz: Forster the corporation officers Jo<sup>n</sup> Webster & Jo<sup>h</sup> Baly dug up or made a deep ditch or dyke thru these 4 gross comons y<sup>e</sup> same Eliz. Forster directing them where to cut throu these 4 gross comons much in y<sup>e</sup> middle of them & then declared & affirmed to John Baly y<sup>t</sup> all ye land lying west of ye corporation dike was her land. When her wicked designing intentions came to my ear, w<sup>ch</sup> was not of a long time after, I writ to y<sup>e</sup> jurymen of St Mary's parish to go down to Stonehill & set out ye true bounds of Church lands to which they all willingly consented whose names were thus, for St Mary's Homage for Michaelmas Court 1739 [Here follow the 13 names] All these jurymen I accompanied to Stone hill myself w<sup>th</sup> Edw<sup>d</sup> Speechly ab<sup>t</sup> 75 years & Jo<sup>n</sup> James ab<sup>t</sup> 70 years old who perfectly knew the bounds of ye Church land, who unanimously all affirm y<sup>t</sup> all y<sup>e</sup> land on y<sup>e</sup> west of y<sup>e</sup> Corporation Cutt belonged to ye Churches

in Whittlesea at least to one of y<sup>r</sup> & y<sup>t</sup> ye s<sup>d</sup> last named old men Edwd Speechly and Jo<sup>n</sup> James remembered y<sup>e</sup> matter perfectly well ever since y<sup>e</sup> gross comons were taken in W<sup>n</sup> the parishioners assign'd & gave these 4 gross comons to Mr. Ric Mason y<sup>e</sup> vicar then. Now considering the base usage y<sup>t</sup> y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> grose comons have had fro ye family Those Forsters, Toz. Forster digging up ye way at y<sup>e</sup> East end leading into y<sup>e</sup> land y<sup>t</sup> no man might hold y<sup>e</sup> land but himself and filling up y<sup>e</sup> Dike at y<sup>e</sup> West end & so claiming it to his own land : Eliz. Forster being y<sup>e</sup> cause of having y<sup>e</sup> Corporation Dyke made in y<sup>e</sup> midst of ye 4 comons & so depriving me of any way to ye west part of ye land C<sup>t</sup> throu ye river for these reasons I advise my success<sup>r</sup> whoev<sup>r</sup> y<sup>t</sup> may be to take ye land from y<sup>e</sup> Forsters [a line erased.] I affirm all this to be true fro my own experience over and over. Nov. 19. 1739 Tho. Topping Vic<sup>r</sup>

On the next leaf of the register is an extract from the will of Mary Foster, who left in 1766 "the sum of one hundred pounds in plate to be used in the parish church," and underneath this is written a receipt for £110 1s. 8d., and signed Edward Darville.

**3.—The Apostles' Coats at' Holbeach.**—An inventory "of the stuffe" sold from Holbeach church in 1543 includes the items of "*Harod's coate xviii d*" and "*all the Apostyl's coats and other ruggs, viii s. iiiii d.*" I am at a loss to understand these items, unless it is meant that some portions of the Apostles' garments were preserved here as relics. But how about Herod's coat?

E.G.A., Holbeach.

**4.—Fenland Briefs.**—The following are a few collections under briefs referring to places in the Fenland :—

<i>Somersham.</i> —At S. Andrew's Church, Whittlesea: 1669, 23rd Jan. Toward the releife of the distressed people of Somersham...13 <sup>s</sup> . 9 <sup>d</sup> .
<i>Kesteven.</i> —At Marholm Church (Norths.): 1670 for great Food [food] in y <sup>e</sup> parts of Kesteven in Lincolnshire ... .. 1. 8.
<i>Littleport.</i> At Woodstone Church (Hunts.): 1707 24 Aug. Littleport's brief ... .. 22 <sup>d</sup> .
<i>Soham.</i> —At Elton Church (Hunts.): 1698. 12. March For Soham in Cambridgeshire ... .. 0. 4. 0.
<i>Ely.</i> —At Elton Church (Hunts.): 1702. Oct. For a Fire at y <sup>e</sup> City of Ely ... .. 0. 5. 2

The following are from the register at Castor Church (Northants.)

<i>Elsworth.</i> —March y <sup>e</sup> 5th 1692-3 for Elsworth in Cambridge-	...	...	...	...	...	...	00.	09.	00
shire	...	...	...	...	...	...	00.	04.	00
<i>Soham.</i> —March y <sup>e</sup> 14th 1696-7 for Soham in Cambridge-	...	...	...	...	...	...	00.	05.	04 ob
shire	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.	6.	4
<i>Ely.</i> —Sep 14. 1701 for Ely Cathedral	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12. 9
<i>Ely.</i> —Dec 20. 1702 for Ely fire [fire]	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
<i>Borough Fen.</i> —May 28. 1704 for Jacob Veney of Boroug fenn upon a letter of request	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	

**5.—Lord Orford's Voyage Round the Fens.**—A newspaper extract from the *Live Stock Journal*, but undated, professes to give a review of a curious little book which has been reprinted for private circulation with this title, "Lord Orford's Voyage Round the Fens." The newspaper extract says:—

It is a record of incidents that occurred during the month of July, 1774. Lord Orford, an experienced agriculturist, challenged Lord Sandwich to meet him on Whittlesey Mere, and to cruise about for four weeks, living on board their boats. Lord Orford started from Brandon, and made his way by water to Peterborough, Huntingdon, and Ramsey. His Lordship says very little in his diary about the breeding of animals, but is particularly severe upon the inhabitants of the fens, especially the females. For instance, at Outwell he wrote, "Women very ugly; of Dutch extraction;" whilst he credits the population of Ramsey with a French origin. All he says about the cattle is, "The oxen very big; the cows and cattle come to stare at us; large and fine." He found the crops to consist of "barley, mustard, and hemp." Lord Orford and Lord Sandwich deserted their boats and went to Spalding races in a post-chaise, one pair of horses doing the journey there and back, which he estimated at forty miles. When the boats had a chance they sailed, but the usual mode of progress from Nordelf to March was by the help of a fen horse called "Hippopotamus," whose pluck and lasting powers received frequent commendation. Some of the "stories" are rather "big." Lord Orford declares that more than one man who went down to the boats was "warted round the eyes like a carrier pigeon."

J. T. M., Spalding.

**6.—Description of the Fens in 1613.**—Michael Drayton was an antiquarian who lived at the close of the 16th and in the early part of the 17th centuries. His work, "Poly-Olbion," professes to give in the form of a poem "A Chorographically description of

Tracts, Rivers, Mountaines, Forests, and other parts of this renowned Isle of Great Britaine, with intermixture of the most remarkable stories, antiquities, wonders, rarities, pleasures, and commodities of the same." The following extracts refer to the Fenland, and will be interesting as describing the condition of the district immediately before Vermuyden came :—

## THE ARGUMENT.

*Tow'rds Lincolnshire our progress layd,  
Wee through deepe Hollands Ditches made,  
Fowling and Fishing in the Fen;  
Then came wee next to Kestiuen  
And bringing Wytham to her fall,  
On Lindsey light wee last of all,  
Her scite and Pleasures to attend,  
And with the Isle of Axholme end.*

Holland divided into two parts, the Lower and the Higher. The Length of Holland by the Sea-shore from the coast of Norfolk to Wainfleet.

Now in vpon thy earth, rich Lincolnshire I straine  
At Deeping from whose street, the plentiful Ditches draine,  
Hemp-bearing Hollands Fen, at Spalding that doe fall  
Together in their Course, themselves as emptying all  
Into one Generall Sewer, which seemeth to diuide,  
Low Holland from the High, which on their Easterne side  
Th' in-bending Ocean holds, from the Norfolkian lands.  
To their Northern poynt, where Wainfleet drifted stands  
Doe shoulder out those Seas, and Lindsey bids her stay,  
Because to that faire part, a challenge she doth lay.

The Description of the Washes,

From Fast and firmer Earth, whereas the Muse of late  
Trode with a steady foot, now with a slower gate,  
Through Quicksands, Beach, & Ouse, the Washes she must wade,  
Where Neptune every day doth powerfully inuade.  
The vast and queachy soyle, with Hosts of wallowing waues  
From whose impetuous force, that who himselfe not saves  
By swift and sudden flight, is swallowed by the deepe,  
When from the wrathfull Tydes the foming Surges sweepe,  
The sands which lay all nak'd, to the wide heaven before,  
And turneth all to Sea, which was but lately Shore,  
From this our Southerene part of Holland, call'd the Low  
Where Crowlands ruines yet, (though almost buried) show  
Her mighty Founders power, yet his more Christian zeale,  
Shee by the Muses ayd, shall happily reueale  
Her sundry sorts of Fowle, from whose abundance she  
Above all other Tracts, may boast herself to be  
The Mistriss, (and indeed) to sit without compare  
And for no worthless soyle, should in her glory share  
From her moyst seal of Flags, of Bulrushes, & Reed,  
With her just proper praise thus Holland doth proceed.

Holland's Oration.

Yee Acherusian Fens, to mine resigne your glory  
Both that which lies within the goodly Territory  
Of Naples, as that Fen Thesposia's earth vpon,  
Whence that infernall Flood, the smutt'd acheron  
Shoues forth her sullen head, as thou most fatall Fen  
Of which Hetruria tells, the watry Thrasimen,

In History although thou highly seemest to boast  
 That Haniball by thee o'rthrew the Roman Host.  
 I scorne th' Egyptian Fen, which Alexandria shoves  
 Proud Mariotis' should my mightinesse oppose,  
 Or Scythia, on whose face the Sunne doth hardly shine  
 Should her Meotis thinke to match with this of mine  
 That coured all with snow continually doth stand.

A Nymph  
 supposed to  
 have the  
 charge of  
 the shore.

Fuell cut out  
 of the  
 Marshes.

Brookes and  
 Pooles worne  
 by the water  
 into which  
 the rising  
 fowls have  
 recourse.

The word in  
 Falconry for  
 a company  
 of Teale.

• Salt water

I stinking Lerna hate, and the poor Libian Sand  
 Marica that wise Nymph, to whom great Neptune gave,  
 The charge of all his shores, from drowning them to saue  
 Abideth with me still vpon my seruice prest  
 And leaves the looser Nymphs to wayt vpon the rest,  
 In Summer giuing Earth from which I square my Peat,  
 And faster feedings by, for Deere, for Horse, & Neat,  
 My various Fleets for Fowle, O who is he can tell,  
 The species that in me for multitudés excell!  
 The Duck and Mallard first, the Falconers only sport  
 (Of Riuer-flights the chiefe, so that all other sort,  
 They only Greene-Fowle tearme) in euery Mere abound,  
 That you would thinke they sate vpon the very ground.  
 Their numbers be so great, the waters couering quite  
 That rais'd, the spacious ayre is darkened with their flight;  
 Yet still the Dangerous Dykes, from shot doe them secure,  
 Where thy from Flesh to Feast, like the full epicure  
 Waft as they cou'd to change their Diet euery meale;  
 And neere to them ye see the lesser dibbling Teale  
 In Bunches, with the first that flie from Mere to Mere  
 As they aboue the rest were Lords of Earth and Ayre.  
 The Gossander with them, my goodly Fennes doe show  
 His head as Ebon blacke, the rest as white as Snow,  
 With whom the Widgeon goes, the golden eye, the Smeath,  
 And in odde scattred pits, the Flags & Reeds beneath;  
 The cool, bald, else cleane black, that white resse it doth beare  
 Vpon the forehead star'd, the Water-Hen doth weare  
 Vpon her little Tayle, in one small feather set.  
 The water-woosell next, all ouer black as Jeat,  
 With various colours, black, greene, blew, red, russett, white,  
 Doe yeeld the gazing eye as variable delight,  
 As doe those sundry Fowles, whose seueral plumes they be.  
 The diving Dob-cluck, here among the rest you see  
 Now vp now downe againe, that hard it is to prouee,  
 Whether vnder water most it liueth or aboue:  
 With which last little Fowle (that water may not lacke;  
 More than the Dob-chick doth, and more doth loue the \*brack)  
 The luffin we compare, which coming to the dish,  
 Nice pallats hardly iudge, if it be flesh or fish.

But wherefore should I stand vpon such toyes as these,  
 That haue so goodly Fowles, the wandring eye to please  
 Here in my vaster Pooles, as white as snow or milke  
 (In water blacke as Stix) swimmes the wild Swanne, the Ilke,  
 Of Hollanders so tearm'd, no niggard of his breath,  
 (As poets say of Swannes, which onely sing in Death)  
 But oft as other birds, is heard his tunnes to roat,  
 Which like a trumpet comes, from his long arched throat,  
 And tow'rd this watry kind, about the Flashes brimme  
 Some clouen-footed are, by nature not to swimme.  
 There stalks the stately Crane, as though he marched in warre  
 By him that hath the home, which (by the Fishy carre)



Can fetch with their long necks, out of the Rush & Reed,  
 Lings, Fry, & yellow Frogs, whereon they often feed:  
 And vnder them againe (that water neuer take  
 But by some Ditches side, or little shallow Lake  
 Lye dabbling night & day) the pallat-pleasing Snite  
 The Bidcocke and like him, the Redshanke, that delight  
 Together still to be, in some small Reedy bed,  
 In which these little Fowles in Summers time were bred.  
 The Buzzing Bitter sits, which through his hollow Bill  
 A sudden bellowing sends, which many times doth fill  
 The neighbouring Marsh with noyse, as though a Bull did roare;  
 But scarcely haue I yet recited halfe my store:  
 And with my wondrous flocks of wild-geese came I then  
 Which look as though alone they peopled all the Fen  
 Which here in winter time when all is ouerflow'd  
 And want of solid sward inforceth them abroad  
 Th' abundance then is seene, that my full Fennes doe yeeld,  
 That almost through the Isle, do pester euery field.  
 The Barnacles with them, which wheresoere they breed,  
 On Trees or rotten Ships, yet to my Fennes for feed.  
 Continually they come, and chief abode doe make  
 And very hardly fore'd my plenty to forsake:  
 Who almost all this kind doe challenge as mine owne  
 Whose like I dare auerre, is elsewhere hardly knowne  
 For sure vnlesse in me, no one yet euer saw  
 The multitudes of fowle, in Morting time they draw:  
 From which to many a one, much profit doth acerue.

Now such as flying feed, next these I must pursue;  
 The Sea-meaw, Sea-pye, Gull, & Curlew heere doe keepe  
 As searching euery Shore, & watching euery deepe  
 To find the floating Fry, with their sharpe-pearing sight  
 Which suddenly they take, by stouping from their height.  
 The Cormorant then comes, (by his deuouring kind)  
 Which flying o'er the Fen, immediately doth find,  
 The Fleet best stor'd of Fish, when from his wings at full,  
 As though he shot himselfe into the thickned skull,  
 He vnder water goes, and so the shoale pursues  
 Which into Creeks doe fly, when quickly he doth chuse  
 The Fin that likes him best, and rising flying feeds.  
 The Ospray oft here seene, though seldom here it breeds  
 Which ouer them the fish no sooner doe espie  
 But (betwixt him and them, by an antipathy)  
 Turning their bellies vp, as though their death they saw,  
 They at his pleasure lye to stuffe his glutt'nous maw.

The Pleasures  
 of the Fennes

The toying Fisher here is tewing of his Net:  
 The Fowler is employd his lymed twigs to set.  
 One vnderneath his Horse, to get a shoote doth stalke;  
 Another ouer Dykes vpon his stilts doth walke:  
 These Men with their spades, the Peats are squaring out,  
 And others from their carres are busily about,  
 To draw out sedge & reed, for Thatch & Stour git  
 That whosouer would a Landskip rightly bit  
 Beholding but my Fennes, shall with more shapes be stor'd  
 Then Germany or France, or Thuscan can afford  
 And for that part of me, which men High Holland call,  
 Where Boston seated is by plenteous Wytham's fall  
 I peremptory am, large Neptunes liquid field  
 Doth to no other tract the like abundance yeeld.

Kestiven's  
Oration.

\* \* \* \* \*

When Kestiven this while that certainly had thought  
Her tongue would ne'er haue stopt, quoth shee O how I hate  
Thus of her Foggy Fennes, to heare rude Holland prate  
That with her Fish and Fowle, here keepeth such a coyle  
As her vnwholesome ayre, and more vnwholesome soyle  
For these of which shee boasts, the more might suffred be;  
When those her feathered flocks she sends not out to me,  
Wherein cleare Witham they, & many a little Brooke  
(In which the sunne itself may well be proud to looke)  
Haue made their flesh more sweet by my refined food  
From that so ramish tast of her most fulsome mud  
When the toyld Cater home them to the Kitchen brings  
The Cooke doth cast them out, as most unsauoury things.  
Besides, what is she else, but a foule woosie marsh  
And that she calls her grasse, so blady is & harsh  
As cuts the cattels mouths, constrained thereon to feed  
So that my poorest trash, which mine call Rush & Reed  
For litter scarcely fit, that to the dung I throw  
Doth like the penny grasse, or the pure Clouer show  
Compared with her best: and for her sundry fish  
Of which shee freely boasts, to furnish every dish,  
Did not full Neptunes fields so furnish her with store  
Those in the ditches bred, within her muddy Moore  
Are of so earthy taste, as that the Ravenous Crow  
Will rather starue thereon her stonouch then bestow.

**7.—The Fellowes Family.**—The founder of the Fellowes family in the Fens was Coulson Fellowes, son of William Fellowes, of London, and nephew of Thomas Coulson, one of the East India Directors. He was born on October 12th, 1696, and married Urania, daughter of Francis Oakley, of Oakley Park, Salop, and sister to Henry Arthur, Earl of Powis. He purchased Park Place, near St. Ives, and soon afterwards Ramsey Abbey.

The heir of Coulson Fellowes was William Fellowes, who was probably born soon after the removal of the family to Ramsey. In 1768 he married Lavinia, daughter and co-heir of James Smith, of St. Andrew's, Somersetshire. He represented Sudbury and Andover in Parliament for several years, and was High Sheriff for Huntingdonshire in 1779.

His son, William Henry Fellowes, was born at Ramsey, on 15th July, 1769, and married on July 23rd, 1804, Emma, daughter of Richard Benyon, Esq., of Englefield House, Berkshire. He represented Huntingdonshire in Parliament for many years.

The eldest son of the above having died, he was succeeded by

his second son Edward Fellowes, who was born in 1809, and succeeded his father in 1837. He married July 2nd, 1845, the Hon. Mary Julia Milles, eldest daughter of the late Lord Sondes, and sister of the present Earl. In 1887, the Jubilee year of Queen Victoria, he was elevated to a peerage, but was on his deathbed at the time. He died at the town residence of the family, 3, Belgrave Square, in August of that year. He left two sons and one daughter. William Henry, who succeeded to the peerage, and is the present Baron de Ramsey, Ailwyn Edward, and the Hon. Mrs. Whatley.

The present Lord de Ramsey married on 12th July, 1877, Lady Rosamond Jane Francis Spencer Churchill, second daughter of the late Duke of Marlborough, and he represented the County of Huntingdonshire in Parliament for several years prior to taking his seat in the House of Peers. His younger brother the Hon. Ailwyn Fellowes, is now one of the county representatives in Parliament.

Ramsey Abbey, the home of the Fellowes, is one of the most interesting historical spots in the Fens. For 600 years it was the home of a body of learned Benedictines. Its foundation was miraculous. The pious monks collected here a magnificent collection of books and valuable manuscripts. It was said to be the most valuable library in England. The building too was one of the grandest piles in the Fen country. Such was the magnificence of Ramsey at that time that in an old doggrel it was described as "Ramsey y<sup>e</sup> Riche." At the Reformation the magnificent library was scattered to the four winds of heaven; vaulted nave and choir ceased to resound with the Divine praises, and the stately building fell into ruins. Its demesnes were granted to Sir Richard Cromwell, whose son rebuilt a manor house out of the ruins. In 1674 it was sold by the representatives of this family to Titus Salt, the author of "Killing no Murder." In 1703 he bequeathed the manor to his wife and two daughters. Catherine, the eldest of these, bequeathed it with an estate of £2,000 to her servants, from whom Coulson Fellowes purchased it in 1736 or 1737.

The estates of the Fellowes include 15,629 acres in Hunting-

donshire, 4,083 in Norfolk, and 309 in Cambridgeshire, making a total of 20,021.

**8.—A Folklore Legend of March.**—Some of the old Fenland Legends are very quaint, and if they could be gathered together they would make a curious and unique collection. Some old residents have got these Legends stored up in their minds as valuable pieces of history concerning the locality in which they reside. Many similar ones have no doubt been lost to posterity in consequence of the continuity of the tradition having been lost, and of the contempt with which local historians of a previous age used to regard such things, but that is all the stronger reason why efforts should be made to preserve those which yet remain. Some of them are almost beautiful in their conception, while others are equally quaint. What their origin may have been I will leave others to discuss. But about 40 years ago I was living at Wisbech and my business frequently took me to March. I then heard from the old people of March a curious story which deserves to be preserved from oblivion. The old Legend told how the people of March in the 13th century endeavoured to build a church on the site where the present cross stands, but the devils were utterly opposed to the proposal. They considered the fenland was especially theirs, and they opposed with might and main the building of churches and the founding of monasteries. As fast as the people of March dug their foundations and built their church the devils came and pulled the work down. The masonry which the builders put up in the day time was destroyed in the night by the devils. This conflict lasted for some years, when the March people, not to be beaten, set up the stone crucifix as an object of terror to the devils. It succeeded in its object. The devils left the town, and that is how the cross came to occupy its present position, which no doubt would have been the better site for the church.

J. L. BLAKE.

**9.—Defoe's Visit to Lynn and the Isle of Ely.**—Daniel Defoe published in 1724 "A Tour through the whole Island of

Great Britain," and the following extracts from the first volume describe his visit to Lynn and the Isle of Ely in 1722 :—

From hence [Walsingham] we went to Lynn, another rich and populous thriving port town. It stands on more ground than the town of Yarmouth, and has, I think, parishes, yet I cannot allow that it has more people than Yarmouth, if so many. It is a beautiful, well built, and well situated town, at the mouth of the river Ouse, and has this particular attending it, which gives a vast advantage in trade, namely, that there is the greatest extent of inland navigation here of any port in England, London excepted. The reason whereof is this, that there are more navigable rivers empty themselves here into the sea, including the washes, which are branches of the same port, than at any one mouth of waters in England, except the Thames and the Humber. By these navigable rivers, the merchants of Lynn supply about six counties wholly and three counties in part, with their goods, especially wine and coals, viz., by the little Ouse they send their goods to Brandon and Thetford, by the lake to Milkenhall, Barton Mills, and St. Edmundsbury; by the river Grant to Cambridge, by the great Ouse itself to Ely, to St. Ives, to St. Neots, to Barford Bridge, and to Bedford; by the river Nyne to Peterborough; by the drains and washes to Wisbeach, to Spalding, Market Deeping, and Stamford; besides the several counties into which these goods are carried by land-carriage from the places where the navigation of those rivers end; which has given rise to this observation on the town of Lynn, that they bring in more coals than any seaport between London and Newcastle; and import more wines than any port in England, except London and Bristol; their trade to Norway and to the Baltic Sea is also great in proportion, and of late years they have extended their trade further to the southward.

Here are many gentry, and consequently is more gaiety in this town than in Yarmouth, or even in Norwich itself—the place abounding in very good company.

The situation of this town renders it capable of being made very strong, and in the late wars it was so; a line of fortification being drawn round it at a distance from the walls; the ruins, or rather remains of which works appear very fair to this day; nor would it be a hard matter to restore the bastions, with the ravelins, and counterscarps, upon any sudden emergency, to a good state of defence: and that in a little time a sufficient number of workmen being employed, especially because they are able to fill all their ditches with water from the sea, in such a manner as that it cannot be drawn off.

There is in the Market place of this town a very fine statue of King William on horseback, erected at the charge of the town. The Ouse is mightly large and deep, close to the very town itself, and ships of good burthen may come up to the quay; but there is no bridge, the stream being too strong, and the bottom moorish and unsound; nor for the same reason is the anchorage computed the best in the world; but there are good roads farther down.

They pass over here into the fen country, and over the famous marshes into Lincolnshire, but the passage is very dangerous and uneasy, and where passengers often miscarry and are lost; but then it is usually on their venturing at improper times, and without the guides, which if they would be persuaded not to do, they would very rarely fail of going and coming safe.

From Lynn I bent my course to Downham, where is an ugly wooden bridge over the Ouse; from whence we passed the fen country to Wisbeach, but saw nothing that way to tempt our curiosity but deep roads, innumerable drains and dykes of water, all navigable, and a red soil, the land bearing a vast quantity of good hemp, but a base unwholesome air; so we came back to Ely, whose cathedral standing in a level peat country, is seen far and wide, and of which town when the minster, so they call it, is described, everything remarkable is said that there is room to say, and of the minster this is the most remarkable thing that I could hear, namely, that some of it is so ancient, totters so much with every gust of wind, looks so like a decay, and seems so near it, that whenever it does fall, all that it is likely will be thought strange in it will be that it did not fall a hundred years sooner.

As my business is not to lay out the geographical situation of places, I say nothing of the buttings and boundings of this county [Cambridgeshire.] It lies on the edge of the great level, called by the people here, the fen country; and great part, if not all, the Isle of Ely lies in this county and Norfolk. . . . . As we descended westward we saw the fen country on our right, almost all covered with water like a sea, the Michaelmas rains having been very great that year, they had sent down great floods of water from the upland countries, and those fens being, as may be very properly said, the work of no less than thirteen counties—that is to say, that all the water, or most part of the water, of thirteen counties fall into them; they are often thus overflowed. The rivers which thus empty themselves into these fens, and which thus carry off the water, are the Cam or Grant, the great Ouse, the little Ouse, the Nene, the Welland, and the river which runs from Bury to Mildenhall. The counties which these rivers drain, as above, are as follows:—

Lincoln	Warwick	Norfolk
*Cambridge	Oxford	Suffolk
*Huntingdon	Leicester	Essex
*Bedford	*Northampton	
Buckingham	*Rutland	

Those marked with (\*) empty all their waters this way, the rest but in part. In a word, all the water of the middle part of England which does not run into the Thames or the Trent comes down into these fens.

In these fens are abundance of those admirable pieces of art called decoys, that is to say, places so adapted for the harbour and shelter of wild fowl, and then furnished with a breed of those they call decoy ducks, who are taught to allure and entice their kind to the places they belong to, that it is incredible what quantities of wild fowl of all sorts, duck, mallard, teal, widgeon, &c., they take in those decoys every week during the season; it may indeed be guessed at a little of this, that there is a decoy not far from Ely which pays to the landlord, Sir Thomas Hare, £500 a year rent, besides the charge of maintaining a great number of servants for the management; and from which decoy alone, they assured me at St. Ives (a town on the Ouse, where the fowl they took was always brought to be sent to London) they generally sent up three thousand couple a week.

There are more of these about Peterboro', who send the fowl up twice a week in wagon loads at a time, whose waggons before the late Act of Parliament to regulate carriers, I have seen drawn by ten or twelve horses a-piece, they were laden so heavy.

As these fens appear covered with water, so I observed too, that they generally at this latter part of the year appear also covered with fogs, so that when the downs and higher grounds of the adjacent country were gilden with the beams of the sun, the Isle of Ely looked as if wrapped up in blankets, and nothing to be seen but now and then the lantern or cupola of Ely Minster.

One could hardly see this from the hills and not pity the many thousands of families that were bound to be confined in those fogs, and had no other breath to draw than what must be mixed with those vapours, and that steam which so universally overspreads the country. But notwithstanding this, the people, especially those that are used to it, live unconcerned, and as healthy as other folks, except now and then an ague, which they make light of, and there are great numbers of very ancient people among them.

**10.—Wisbech Castle and its Prisoners.**—This is a page in local history which has not received the attention from local

historians which it deserves. The accounts of the castle are very meagre, and, although it is well known that, in the 16th and early part of the 17th century, it was used as a prison for State offenders there is little or no record of who those prisoners were, or what were their offences. It is probable that many of them were detained for life, and dying there were buried in Wisbech. Messrs. Walker and Craddock, in their excellent "History of Wisbech and the Fens," give a list of the constables and a few particulars about them, but a list of the State prisoners would be equally interesting. A few names are included in Messrs. Walker and Craddock's work, but they are very few indeed. The only names mentioned by them are Watson, Bishop of Lincoln, who died at Wisbech in 1587, Father Weston, Robert Gatesby, and Francis Tresham.

A. P., Wisbech.

11.—**The Pancake Bell at Ramsey.**—On Shrove Tuesday the custom of ringing the Pancake Bell was revived at Ramsey this year, and I see by a notice of the circumstance in a local newspaper that a peal was afterwards rung in honour of the day. This latter part is difficult to understand. The ringing a bell on Shrove Tuesday had its origin in summoning the people to church for the purpose of being shriven. It was the ancient custom for all Christians to get shriven on Shrove Tuesday, in order that they might be "in a state of Grace and their penances and fasting during Lent the more acceptable to God." When the meaning for ringing the bell on Shrove Tuesday had ceased to exist, the bell in many places was continued to be rung, and it was then used as an indication when the pancake revelry should commence. Taylor says that the orthodox time for commencing was 11 o'clock, but "with the aid of a knavish sexton" the bell was commonly rung before 9 in the morning. "At the sound of the bell," he continues, "thousands of people became distracted and forgetful either of manners or of humanitie." The first pancake was given to the latest riser, hence the couplet:—

Maids, fritters and pancakes inough see ye make,  
Let slut have one pancake for companie's sake.



At Peterborough (St. John's) the pancake bell has continuously been rung.

**12.—A Vow of Chastity at Doddington in 1393.**—Fosbroke says, in his *British Monachism*, 3rd Edit., 363-4 :—

Epiphanius and other Fathers mention husbands who lived apart from their wives, and wives from their husbands, . . . . .  
 Among us men and their wives took them when growing old ; and certain hospitals required these vows before admission. The most common vow was, however, that of widowers and widows to observe chastity in honor of their deceased wives or husbands. These widows were called *Vidua pullata* (from the habit), or, as they may be termed, *mourning widows*, . . . . .  
 These vows amongst us are very ancient. Gildas mentions Cuneglass's wife's sister, a widow who had made a vow of chastity. The anglo Saxon women also made them, and the women wore a ring and russet gown. The Bishop of the diocese issued a commission ; and besides of observing the vow, the widow was for life to wear a veil and a mourning habit. Both were duly consecrated. The veil was put on by the priest, but the ring only was sufficient, whether they took the veil or habit or not.

The following is the ceremonial of making a vow of this kind by a widow—

13 March, 1393.—Lady Blanch, relict of Sir Nicholas Styvede, Knt., alledging that she was a parishioner of John, Lord Bishop of Ely, humbly supplicated the said Bishop that he would think worthy to accept her vow of chastity, and from consideration of regard, confer upon her the mantle and ring, &c., and afterwards the said Lady Blanch, in the chapel of the Manor of Dodyngton, in the diocese of Ely, before the high altar, in the presence of the said reverend father then and there solemnly celebrating Mass, made solemnly her vow of chastity as follows in these words :—

I, Blanch, heretofore wife of Sir Nicholas de Styvede, Knt., vow to God, and to our holy Lady St. Mary, and all Saints, in presence of our reverend father in God, John, by the grace of God, Bishop of Ely, that I will be chaste from henceforth during my life. And the said reverend Father received her vow, and solemnly consecrated and put upon the said vowess the mantle and ring in the presence of, &c. One of the witnesses is a notary public.

**13.—Making the G.N. Railway across the Fen.** I was travelling on the G.N. Railway one day, and when near Holme,

I spoke to an old man who sat in one corner of the carriage, and who had got in at Holme station. After speaking about the extent of Whittlesey Mere, the old man said: "I mind the time well, sir, when they made this line across the fen. The mere did not come within a quarter-of-a-mile of it, but the fen here was like a sponge. They raised this railway bank under great difficulty, long planks of wood were laid on the fen, and if one of the workmen stepped off the plank he used to slip up to his middle in the bog and had to be helped out. The draining of the lake made a great difference to the Fenland here."

J. F.

14.—**John Helder, of Soham Mere.**—Some curious particulars about John Helder, who was born on the 17th of December, 1797, in the immediate vicinity of Soham mere, were given by Mr. J. C. Woods in the *Antiquary* for November, 1888. The circumstances were taken from an old MS. which had been kept, after the first 50 pages, in journal form by Mr. Helder himself, and which was found in the library of a dissenting minister of the Fenland. The greater part of the journal was taken up with circumstances concerning Helder's spiritual life. He appears to have been a farmer and a general man of business, but of considerable education, as his correct orthography, fine caligraphy, and style of composition sufficiently testify. He was of cultivated and even erudite tastes, judging from the books he speaks of as reading. In May, 1724, he was married to "a young woman, who, before unknown, had appeared to him in a vision during a dangerous illness in the previous year." During that illness he renounced "carding and dicing, dancing and reading ungodly ballads, unchaste songs, and lascivious discourses in play books," in which he had much delighted. At the same time, also, he appears to have left the Church of England and became associated with the Independents. On this account he offended his relatives, particularly an uncle, who however relented on his death bed and left him his estate. In 1758 he was made a "Commissioner for Ely and Soham Levell in Middle Fen, etc., being encouraged to

undertake and go through this business by the hopes and prospects of being serviceable to the poor inhabitants of these drowned parishes by helping them to much worke, which, with an increase of wages, will better maintain their Families, lately distressed by dearness and scarcity of Provisions, and by hopes of seeing the readiness of the Landowners to raise and lay out their money repaid with double interest." He himself had bitter experience of Soham "Meer" in relation to "these poor drowned parishes," for once he was overtaken by a storm when crossing it in a little open boat, with a small sail set, and was himself nearly drowned. On another occasion, in Dec., 1747, there being a great flood, he sent his son with other neighbours to fetch home the horses out of Beach Fen and in crossing the "charn" in a boat with three horses, a rapid stream drove the sheets of ice against the boat, so that his son and two of the horses fell overboard, and the former was barely rescued. In February, 1745-6, "the wind lying north east, and blowing very hard brought the water against the Meer bank, and raised it higher than I have ever seen it before, and kept it rising so much as made me believe y<sup>o</sup> Meer was in danger of being drowned: y<sup>o</sup> bank then was very dry and consequently light, and upon a break of a frost not so solid as usual. The wind increased in the night and was very stormy. I got up soon after two of y<sup>o</sup> clock in y<sup>o</sup> morning and took my Bible to read in as usual before going out . . . . I knew if y<sup>o</sup> Meer was drowned it w<sup>d</sup> be a great loss to L<sup>d</sup> Townsend to my neighbours and to myself." But the "Meer" was all right. He lost a little son in 1728, and his wife in 1735, but had at least two other children, a son and a daughter—the former predeceased him and the latter is referred to as being at a boarding school at Ipswich. He never re-married, although in 1754 the world raised many reports against him concerning "a young woman who dearly and truly loved him and whom also he loved right well; but God knew, he did not know, whether she were a true woman or not." He appears to have suffered many losses, and especially refers to a distemper raging amongst the cattle, which, in 1748, carried off all his save one. When the Norfolk

Mail was robbed in January, 1748-9, he was very uneasy about two drafts therein for £150; payment however was stopped, and fresh drafts were subsequently sent him and paid in due course. For many years he was an invalid, and when only 38 years of age, he thus summarizes the accidents which had befallen him.

Twice was I left in the water helpless and one minute's time longer would very likely have put an end to my life: my head has been broken at six severall times and places, yet not by the hand of man, but by falls and by cattle and other strange accidents. I have had three violent blows on the mouth, one of them by a Ram, and two by horses, by which some of my teeth were broken and others loosened, and my speech much hindered: I have very often had great deliverances from danger by waggons and carts, also by horses and other cattle, and by thieves and other enemies and by violent tempests.

He enumerates many meditations, &c., which he wrote, but it is probable they were never printed. The following entries are also worth quoting:—

June y<sup>e</sup> 8th, 1727.—I being this day at Isleham, saw & heard the biggest tempest that ever hapned in my memory, and which much damaged a house there, and terrifyed and confounded the ungodly for the present.

Sep. 8th, 1727.—On this day hapned a very dismal fire at Burwell, whereby was 80 persons burnt to death. I was not present, but saw it at four or five miles distance, at about 10 of y<sup>e</sup> clock in the evening, and though my body was absent, yet my soul did sympathise and was present with them that were then afflicted.\*

1st Dec., 1747.—There was a violent storm of wind & snow from the North w<sup>ch</sup> did a great deal of damage about three in the afternoon. . . . About two hours after I was informed by one of our men of the great distress they had been under at y<sup>e</sup> Three Mills by y<sup>e</sup> Wind turning into y<sup>e</sup> North suddenly, the sail cloths being frozen and could not be rolled up, and the Mills all like to be torn in pieces; but by God's good Providence they were at last secur'd with little damage done to them.

The last entry is dated December, 1764, when Mr. Helder would be 67 years of age.

\* An account of this fire, which happened in a barn during a puppet show, was published by Flo. Gibbons in 1769.

15.—**Fenland Holmes.**—All along the banks of the Ouse, especially from Huntingdon to Earith, are various small tracts of land called “holms.”

This is rather an interesting word to a fenman. It is variously traced to the Anglo-Saxon, Danish, Latin, and German, and means “a low, flat, tract of rich land on the banks of a river.” The poet speaks of—

The soft wind blowing over meadowy “holms.”

The word “holme” in Scandinavia was used to express a place surrounded by water; and in a secondary sense, according to Mr. Fergusson, alluvial land by a river; in which latter sense it mainly occurs in Cumberland and Westmoreland. In the former sense we may instance the Steep and Flat Holmes in the river Severn, at Weston-super-Mare.

The majority of *Holmes* were islands in the time of flood. Holme-on-Spalding Moor is an eminence in an ancient swamp. But in Huntingdonshire the name is generally applied to flat ground near the river. Harrison in his *Description of England*, p. 43, says, “Some call them the holmes because they lie low, and are good for nothing but grasse.”

The derivation of the word is now mostly accepted by etymologists as being of Anglo-Saxon source, signifying a river island—flat land lying along the river and occasionally flooded by its waters—hence the “Holmes” of Huntingdonshire.

The Port-holme of Huntingdon is well known by reason of the annual racings held there.

Whether the parish of Holme, some ten miles from Huntingdon, was named by the Saxon who may have settled there is, of course, uncertain. It is better to leave fanciful and apochryphal derivations to oblivion. It is true that the Anglo-Saxon meaning of the word is correctly applied to the “Holmes” on both banks lower down the river, in the parishes of Hemingford Grey and Houghton.

At St. Ives the “Holmes” consist of a few fields near the Staunch and what is called the “Old River,” and in flow time are inundated.

At Holywell one field adjoining the river still retains the name of "Flagg-holme." This is rather an interesting compound word. It may mean that there was formerly some kind of signal by flags and harbour for boats at "Holywell," or that the district abounded with flag plants of the same species which are still plentiful.

Flat-holme and Steep-holme are two small islands in the Severn. Axholme, Doonholme, Glenholme, Holmewood, and the proper names Holmes and Hume are further illustrations. Curious local names often upon investigation yield valuable historical information.

Lewis, in his *Topographical Dictionary*, mentions the word Holm or Holme twenty-eight times, either as a simple name or in combination with other subordinates. It is very fairly distributed and the above comparatively large number shew it to be a popular name.

HERBERT E. NORRIS, St. Ives, Hunts.

**16.—Fenland Runaway Marriages.**—The following extracts are from the Runaway Marriage Registers of Haddington, published in *Northern Notes and Queries*, Vol. iii., No. 12 :—

- |               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|---------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1767 Aug 16   | Nevil Goodman, Farmer, and Susannah Goodman, Spinster, both of Elm in the Isle of Ely, Co. Cambridge. W[itnesses] Jonathan Phillips, Bw. Bower.                                                                            |
| 1769 March 22 | Richard Wignall, Farmer, and Rachel Leroo, Spinster, both of Peterboro, co. Northampton. W[itnesses] Susannah Leroo, James Fairbairn, Barthw. Bower.                                                                       |
| 1769 June 1   | George Denshire, Esq., of All Saints, in Stamford, Co. Lincoln, Capt. in the 9th Regiment of Foot and Ann Brackenbury of Spilsby, same County, Spinster. W[itnesses] George Digby, Barthw. Bower.                          |
| 1774 Nov 25   | John Jackson, of Godmanchester, Co. Huntingdon, Lieutenant of His Majesty's Marine Forces, and Sarah Paine of Stoke Damarel, Co. Devon, Spinster. W[itnesses] E. Mallett, Barthw. Bower, James Fairbairn, M. B. (?) Horne. |

**17.—Records of Finds, &c.**—Mr. S. H. Miller, the author of *Fenland*, writes as follows:—Many *finds* are made in the Fenland from time to time which are not fully known to the public. At all events the notes made of them are not permanently recorded, and *Fenland Notes and Queries* would afford the means of preserving the knowledge of such interesting records from being entirely lost to the future. Occasionally some notices are given in the newspapers, but these are not preserved except by a few perhaps, who take care of the cuttings. There is also much to be cleared up about certain phenomena in past ages, of finds of flints, pottery, coins, canoes, and a host of such things. The folklore, also, of the Fens, requires attention, especially with regard to local names, of rivers, fields, and roads, which are being changed in their character by railways, for instance, besides the loss of old landmarks by the process of cultivation, &c.

**18.—Whirlwind Cakes at Leverington.**—It is many years now since I was at Leverington, but I well remember that it used to be the custom at the feast then to make Whirlwind cakes. There was a curious old folklore legend attached to this custom. It was to the effect that while a certain old lady of Leverington was one day making cakes for the purpose of entertaining her guests at the feast, the devil came to her, and creating a whirlwind carried her off over the church steeple. In commemoration of this improbable event the custom had grown of making Whirlwind cakes.

T. LAWRENCE, The Grove, Hammersmith.

**19.—A Local Rhyme at Downham.**—In connection with St. Winnold's fair held here, the following rhyme is frequently heard:—

First came David, then came Chad,  
Then came Winnold, blowing like mad.

J. B., Peterborough.

**20.—Mumping Day at Chatteris.**—The 21st day of December has from time immemorial been known in Chatteris as

“mumping day.” On that day old men and old women, and even young women, pass from house to house begging alms. A great many residents make a rule of giving a penny each to all “mumpers,” others confine the gift to widows, and some, strangely, only acknowledge widowers.

**21.—Earthquakes in the Fenland.**—The following is a list of Earthquakes recorded as having taken place in the Fenland :—

1048. In Lincolnshire, recorded in *Historia Ingulphi*, p. 64, Oxf. ed., 1684.
1117. Particularly felt in Holland (Linc.) endangering and injuring Crowland Abbey. *Ibid.* p. 129.
1185. Lincoln damaged. *Roger Hoveden*, p. 359.
1448. Shock felt in S. part of Lincolnshire. *Ingulph*, p. 526.
1750. Shock attended by rumbling noise. Felt in Lincolnshire & Northamptonshire. Chimneys fell—homesteads tottered. *In Collection for a Topographical History of the Hundred of Aveland*, by John Moore.
1792. Shock felt at Bourne and neighbourhood.

S. H. MILLER, Lowestoft.

**22.—Storm at Bourn in 1800.**—On Sunday, the 4th of May, 1800, a memorable storm passed over the Fens, but was more severely felt at Bourn than elsewhere. In that parish alone no less than £700 worth of damage was done. Mr. Samuel Hopkinson, of Morton, near Bourn, wrote two letters describing the storm and its effects in that parish, and these letters were published in the *Stamford Mercury*, on May 9th and 15th, 1800. The early morning, considering the season of the year, was exceedingly hot, and nearer midday it became more oppressive. The air was calm, the sky serene, all was still. Cattle were observed to assemble in groups, to retire to barns and hedges, or to return home. As another indication of the coming tempest, Mr. Hopkinson mentions that the oxen “bellowed extremely.” He then gives the following very graphic description of what occurred :—

Though sensibly impressed with these concurring signs, I was more particularly struck at the perturbed and increasing state of the clouds, from 12 to 2 p.m., rugged fragments were incessantly



rising higher and larger than the preceding, assembling and uniting towards the Zenith, until, like the little one in the days of Elijah, they almost covered the face of the sky. About this time the southern horizon inclining rather towards the west, began to assume an uniform blackness. The thunder rolled and the storm howled. The air was chilled, the wind rose, and what I esteem a more certain prognostic than any other, small clouds, formed like fleeces, denser in the middle, and white towards the edges, mounted with great celerity in front, and preceded the vast black tempest, which was fast increasing behind. My well-disposed neighbours were already assembled in the church, for the purpose of paying their weekly adorations to the Supreme Being. Alarmed at the approaching darkness, and at the sound of the mighty wind, some ran into the porch, others into the churchyard to see the approaching storm. While thus assembled, our attention was suddenly arrested by a vast column of smoke, which seemed to arise from the ground about a southern mile from the place where we stood, just like the fancied representation of Etna and Vesuvius. With several others I immediately ascended the steeple; but, here description must for ever fall short; no mind can comprehend, no tongue can tell, no pen can represent the scene now exhibited to the astonished sight. I was just in time to have a better view of the phenomenon which alarmed us below, nor do I hesitate in believing it proceeded from the sudden explosion of a large fire-ball, as the smoke was far more transparent, and ascended in a manner very different from what terrestrial matter is accustomed to emit. A sharp cold misty rain now began to beat on me; the clouds vaulted one over another in confused impetuosity, just as delineated by the masterly hand in the tempestuous skies of *Salvator Rosa*. The edifice rocked, the wind roared, the thunder pealed, the lightning went abroad, and nature seemed struggling for her very existence.

The fury of the storm now became excessive; the sun withdrew his shining, and a partial darkness overspread the land. We could neither stand without support, see without difficulty, or hear any thing except the elements in disorder. We quickly descended for safety into the church. Here was a scene the most awful and extraordinary I ever witnessed through the course of my life; such, as I supposed, it was not the power of the elements, in the ordinary course of natural operations, in so high a latitude at least, to have effected; such, perhaps, as had not been displayed from the beginning of time, even unto this day. Such windows as were not well secured fell down into the nave of the church. The effects of the hail, aided by a dreadful wind, accompanied by heavy peals of thunder and flashes of lightning, upon the south and western windows, if I may be allowed to compare small things with great, I can liken to nothing so aptly as to an infinite number of muskets pouring balls incessantly upon the church, for the space of half an hour; for the glass shivered and incorporated, as it were, with a shower of monstrous hail-

stones, beat quite across and struck the sides of the northern aisle with considerable force. The confused noise occasioned by the rushing wind, by the glass and hail, by the shrieks of the women, the cries of the children, together with the dismay, visible in the faces of all, was much increased by a sudden hollow explosion, not unlike a gun discharged either in a cavern or with its muzzle close to a wall. This was soon discovered to be the effect of lightning, which struck and scorched the leg of a young man, who had retreated with many more under a pillar of the western entrance for safety. As soon as the tempest abated, the inhabitants, whose continuance in the church was both uncomfortable and dangerous, eagerly returned to their respective houses, the windows whereof towards the south and south-west, were almost entirely demolished. The cottage of the poor man, as well as the mansions of the rich, suffered in the general wreck. None hath escaped God's avenging arm. Of 121 panes in eight sash windows in the western front of the vicarage house, only 21 were saved, which was owing to the sashes being left up.

Toward the south, of five windows with 281 panes, there were only 23 left.

Add to this, I have a small green house and stables in a very shattered condition.

The villages in this neighbourhood, especially Gunthorpe, Strainfield, Haeconby, Dunsby, and Rippingale, shared a similar fate, and exhibit, in appearance, houses in the metropolis, after they have been recently rescued from the ravages of fire, by dashing out the windows, and by reasonable exertions of the engines.

Mr. Hopkinson then writes at considerable length of the damage done to the growing crops. Some of the fields of wheat had been "entirely swept away;" the hedges had been "stript of their foliage," having the appearance of "arriving winter." He also tells of the injuries inflicted upon birds and poultry. He picked up "a pidgeon almost stript of its feathers, and learn that many have been taken up dead." Walking in his garden an hour after the storm, he found it in a state of "complete desolation," and "nothing was left by the destructive blast." He found several hailstones of an inch diameter. One he measured very exactly, and found it to be  $1\frac{1}{2}$  in. in length, 1 in. broad, and half inch thick. He also says he was informed that many were found as large as pigeon's eggs, some measuring five inches in circumference.

**23.—A Remarkable Journey from Wisbech.**—On the 19th of November, 1841, a man named Thomas Wressel, aged 68, died at Wisbech, and previous to his death he expressed a wish to his only sister, who resided with him, that his remains should be interred in the churchyard at Clarborough, near Retford, at which place he had previously lived, and where his mother and some of his family had been interred. With remarkable resolution the sister decided upon fulfilling her brother's last injunction, and set forth from Wisbech with the remains of her brother in a donkey cart. The distance of road between Wisbech and Clarborough was 97 miles. During the journey the coffin, which projected from behind the cart, was covered with a ragged coverlid, upon which the dejected sister sat. After being 11 days on the road, she reached Clarborough on the 2nd of December, and the body laid as it had travelled in the cart in an outhouse of one of the village inns until December 4th, when it was buried by the Curate (Rev. W. R. Sharpe). The sister wore no mourning, but readily paid the funeral expenses. She was 60 years of age. Fifteen days elapsed between the death of the man and his burial. After the funeral the woman returned to Wisbech with the donkey and cart.

**24.—Accidents at Lynn Ferry.**—In 1630 an accident happened to the Ferry boat crossing the river from Common-Staithe Quay to Old Lynn, when 18 persons were drowned. Exactly 166 years later a very similar catastrophe occurred, when no less than 22 persons were drowned. The latter circumstance happened in March, 1796, as the ferry boat was crossing the river, at seven in the evening, with about 30 persons on board. It ran foul of the cable of a barge and was upset, all the occupants being immersed. John Price, a sailor, witnessed the accident, and at the imminent hazard of his own life, dived into the water again and again, until he had rescued four of the passengers. He had entered the water a fifth time, and had seized a woman when the rapidity of the tide tore her from him. He then narrowly escaped drowning. Only about a dozen of the bodies were ever recovered.

**25.—Tombstone Inscriptions in Thorney Abbey.**—Thorney Abbey has recently undergone restoration, but genealogists will be pleased to learn that every care was taken to preserve the monumental inscriptions on the walls and on the floor. Many of these latter have become very indistinct in consequence of the traffic which has passed over them. Amongst the monuments in the south wall is a small square stone, bearing a Latin inscription to the memory of the Rev. Ezekiel Danois, who died on the 24th Feb. 1674, but the age is left blank. The inscription speaks of him as the first minister of the French Colony, which began to assemble at Thorney, in 1652. But the accuracy of this claim is disputed, as a license is still extant granted by Bishop Wren to Stephen de Cursol, a Frenchman, to preach at Thorney, either in French or Latin. The date of that licence is 1600, which is half a century earlier than the date claimed for Ezekiel Danois. The following is a complete list of all the inscriptions now existing in the interior of the Abbey:—

ON THE FLOOR.

Here lyeth the body of Mr. George Smith: who was Steward vnto y<sup>e</sup> Righe Hon<sup>ble</sup> William Earle of Bedford: Hee dyed the 29 of October Anno 1651.

In memory of Mr. John South who dep. this life November the xxx 1727 aged . . . years. [The age had never been engraved.] Sarah the wife of John South died September y<sup>e</sup> 17<sup>th</sup> 1720 aged XXXVIII yrs. Also in memory of Charles the son of Jacob and Sarah Bayley who departed this life the 26<sup>th</sup> April anno domini, 1741.

Mark le Pla died April 13 · 1697 age d75. Mary le Hover his wife dep. March 24 · 1693 aged 63. Also Mr. John Le Pla Esquire departed this life October y<sup>e</sup> v 1727 aged 72.

John Girdlestone, M.A. died 20 March 1821, aged 76. Rebecca Girdlestone his widow died 10<sup>th</sup> Jany. 1824 aged 75.

He lyeth the body of John Le Pla junr. who departed this life Feb<sup>r</sup> the IX<sup>th</sup> 1723. in ye 36 year of his age. Also in memory of Charles Lepla who dep. this life August y<sup>e</sup> xxvi 1726 aged 37. Also in memory of Jane Lepla wife of John Lepla sen<sup>r</sup> who departed this life the 24<sup>th</sup> February 1717 aged 84.

Here lyeth the body of John Guerin who departed this life 13<sup>th</sup> of November 1724 aged 11 years. . . . .

F. S. 1710.

John Girdlestone M.A. died 2, March 1821 aged 76.

In memory of Frances wife of John Bailey who died 24 March 1831 in the 34 year of her age. [Other half of the stone blank.]

In memory of Mary widow of the late James Denny of Raveningham, Norfolk, who died 16<sup>th</sup> June 1831 aged 63 years. Also Mary daughter of James & Mary Denny died Febry 10. 1860 aged 42 years.

In memory of Thomas Bailey who died 22<sup>nd</sup> November 1830 in the 41<sup>th</sup> year of his age.

Ann Bailey died Oct. 27, 1841 aged 92 years. In memory of John Bailey, who died January 13<sup>th</sup> 1822 aged 72 years.

Here lyeth the body of William, fourth son of Benj. and Eliz. Holdich, who was born on the 18th Dec. 1807, and buried on 18th Dec. 1808.

Susannah the wife of Benj<sup>n</sup>. Holdich who died April 3. 1810 in the 23rd year of her age. [A poetical epitaph is indecipherable.]  
 . . . . Holdich . . . . 1810.

Martha wife of John Bel . . . . died Oct. . . . . John . . . . died . . . .  
 Martha . . . . John . . . .

In memory of James Watson, gent., who departed this life April 19. 1802 aged . 2 years. Also Mary wife of James Watson, gent., who departed this life January 1803 aged 65 years.

Here lyeth y<sup>e</sup> body of Amelia y<sup>e</sup> daughter of James and Mary . . . . .  
 [remainder indistinct; the name is probably Watson].

Here lies interred the body of Maria the wife of Wilson Wells Cler<sup>e</sup> and daughter of William Smith Esq. of Graveley in the county of Hertford. She departed this life y<sup>e</sup> 7th day of March in y<sup>e</sup> year of our Lord 1732 in y<sup>e</sup> . 32nd year of her age.

Here lyeth the remains of Daniel Bayley Esq late of Willow Hall who died the 21st Jan 1774 aged 41 years. Also Mingay Bayley sister of the above Daniel Bayley Esq. who died the 5 of March 1761 aged 24 years.

Daniel Bayley of Willow Hall 1763 aged 62 years. [This stone is greatly obliterated].

Here lye interred Dorothy wife of Mr. Abraham Ris Mar 25 A.D. 1714 ag. 37. Also Samuel son of y<sup>e</sup> said Ab. and Dor. Ris Mar: 17. A.D. 1714 Act. 6 [considerably obliterated]. Also Dorothy the daughter of Mr. Abraham and Dorothy Ris deceased August the xxii, 1722 age<sup>d</sup> xvii. years. Also Jer. Ris Esq<sup>r</sup> son of Mr. Abra<sup>m</sup> and Dorothy Ris who dep<sup>d</sup> this life Nov. 19 · 1753 aged 50 years. Mr. Abraham Ris January y<sup>e</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> A.D. 1717 aged 55 years. Also Abraham y<sup>e</sup> son of Mr. Abraham & Dorothy Ris deceased Dec 24 · 1721 aged xxii years. Also the Rev<sup>d</sup> Mr. James Ris A.M. late Minister of this Church son of Mr. Abraham & Dorothy Ris who departed this life Feb. 10 · 1758 aged 45 years.

The Rev. John Hunt (?) Master of Arts, Curate of the Donative of Thorney . . . . . rector of Benefield in the County of Northampton. He died M . . . 1807 aged [looks like 60] years.

Here lieth the body of Mr. John Ansell who departed this life the 8<sup>th</sup> of February 1778 aged 66 years.

Here lieth the body of Abigail the wife of Mr. John Ansell who departed this life . . . 1760 aged 47 years.

Mary the daughter of John and Jane Wing died 13 Feb 1808 aged 17 years. Sarah Maria their second daughter died 1st April 1826 aged 36 years.

John Wing Esq<sup>re</sup> died 20 April 1812 in the 61st year of his age. Jane Wing, widow of the above died 15th Oct. 1824 aged 70 years.

Here lieth interred the body of James Le Pla who departed this life January . . . 1677 Actat 50 (?) Here lyeth also the body of Sarah the wife of James le Pla who departed . . . . . 17 . . . . . 77. Near this place lieth the body of John Leppla one of the sons of the above named James le Pla who died 4th Jan 1746 aged 60, Also Samuel Leppla one of the sons of the above John Leppla . . . 1794 (?) aged 16.

The Rev. Thos. Which A.B. sometime curate of this parish he died [some woodwork connected with the west door covers the remainder of the inscription].

Here lieth y<sup>e</sup> body of John Peirson y<sup>e</sup> 3rd and youngest son of Ralph Peirson Esqr aged 5½ years who departed this life . . . 1666. Also the body of Richard Peirson who dyed June . . . aged 82.

## ON THE SOUTH WALL.

Sacred to the memory of Mr. James Lambert late of Walworth, Surrey, Member of the Royal College of Surgeons London who departed this life the 25<sup>th</sup> of Oct 1830 in the 29<sup>th</sup> year of his age.

John Wing Esq. of Thorney Abbey died April 3rd A.D. 1812 in the 61st year of his age.

John Bailey Esq died January 13<sup>th</sup> 1822 aged 72 years. Also Ann Bailey his widow died Oct. 27 1841 aged 92 years.

[Brass]. In memoriam : Frances Bailey 1831 ; John Bailey 1836 ; John Bailey 1836 ; George Bailey 1836 ; Mary Denny 1839 Edward Bailey 1865.

In this Church near the south entrance are deposited the mortal remains of John Girdlestone M.A. incumbent curate of this parish, faithfully discharged the duties of his ministry within these walls for upwards of 50 years, resigned his soul unto his God at the age of 76 years, on the 2nd day of March in the year of Our Lord Christ 1821. Also the remains of Rebecca Girdlestone his widow who died at the age of 75 years on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of January 1824.

[Brass]. In loving memory of John Clapham M.R.C.S. who practised 42 years in this parish born January 2nd 1808 died Feb. 7<sup>th</sup> 1882.

Sacred to the memory of Samuel Perkins gent. of this parish who died February 14<sup>th</sup> 1841 aged 67 years. Also Alice Perkins his widow died July 19<sup>th</sup> 1846 aged 75 years.

## ON THE NORTH WALL.

Sacred to the memory of Elizabeth the affectionate wife of William Whitting Esqr who trusting in her Redeemer's merits for a blessed immortality departed this life VII, september MDCCCXXXII aged XXX years, deeply mourned as a wife a mother & a friend. Also to the parental memory of Spelman Swaine infant son of William Whitting Esq<sup>ro</sup> & his beloved wife Sophia Day born June XXVIII MDCCCLVII died May XII MDCCCLVIII the above William Whitting Esq & likewise his wife Sophia Day died and were buried at St Leonards on Sea A.D., MDCCCLXXIX.

Near this spot repose the remains of Sampson Barber late of Willow Hall in this parish who departed this life on 1st January 1828 in the 52nd year of his age. As a simple tribute of respect and gratitude this stone is erected to the memory of a kind and affectionate parent by his family.

Near this place lieth the body of Abraham Flahau who departed this life the 12<sup>th</sup> day of July 1755 in the 72<sup>nd</sup> year of his age. His wife & twelve children lie in the Church of St James Clerkenwell, London, with her father & mother, Henry & Dorothy Hankin.

**26.—Price of Wheat, &c., at Ramsey, in 1317.**—From Dugdale's *Monasticon* and other sources, it appears that "During the great dearth which commenced in 1314, after great floods, and lasted till 1318; the price of corn at Ramsey in 1317 was 24s. per quarter; three years before it was 7s. per quarter at Oxford, and in 1324 it was 6s. 8d. But in 1318, immediately on the cessation of the dearth, through an abundant harvest, the fall in price was far greater; wheat fell from 40 pence the bushel to sixpence; lambs were a penny each; hens were six a penny and eggs 2s. per thousand.

**27.—The Will of John Underwood, of Whittlesea.**—Mr. John Underwood, of Whittlesea, Cambridgeshire, left £6,000 to his sister on condition of her carrying out his wishes respecting his funeral, and the lady wisely sacrificed her feelings rather than her fortune, and fulfilled his last injunction to the letter. The dead man was placed in a green coffin, clad in his usual everyday dress, his head resting on Saradon's "Horace," Bentley's edition being placed under him, and the same editor's "Milton" lying at his feet. The right hand of the corpse clasped a small Greek Testament, while the left clasped a miniature edition of "Horace." No bell was tolled, but after the burial service had been read, an arch was turned over the coffin, and a piece of marble placed in the centre, inscribed "Non omnis moriar, 1733." The six mourners, or the gentlemen who did duty as such, then sang the last stanza of the ode in which Horace deprecates any display of grief for the dead. Adjourning to their dead friend's house, the six sat down to an excellent supper. As soon as the cloth was removed they performed a requiem in the shape of another Horatical ode, and after making themselves merry with a cheerful glass, departed to their several homes, and, we suppose, fulfilled the testator's final injunction to "Think no more of John Underwood."

J. FEVRE, Whittlesea.



28.—**Whittlesey Mere in 1786.**—Mr. Bodger, of Stilton, published in June and July of 1786, a Map of Whittlesey Mere, of which a few copies were printed on satin and others on paper. The size of the plate was 2 feet 2 inches by 1 foot 7 inches. It was engraved by “that much admired artist, Mr. Collyer, and others,” who had “engaged to render it incomparably superior to any other publication.” The title is as follows :—

A  
CHART  
OF THE BEAUTIFUL FISHERY OF  
WHITTLESEA MERE  
IN THE COUNTY OF  
HUNTINGDON  
AND  
OF SUCH NAVIGABLE RIVERS WITH WHICH  
IT HAS COMMUNICATION  
FROM THEIR SPRING HEADS TO THEIR INFLUX INTO THE SEA  
MOST RESPECTFULLY INSCRIBED TO  
THE NOBILITY AND GENTRY  
BY THEIR MUCH OBLIGED AND MOST  
OBEDIENT HUMBLE SERVANT  
JOHN BODGER.

Above this title appears in the clouds the figure of Fama supporting a medallion, on which the arms of the County of Huntingdon are displayed, while underneath the title is an allegorical representation of a Triton, whose shield exhibits the united forces of France, Spain, Holland, and America at war with Great Britain, who appears in a warlike posture in the centre protecting British Commerce. This centre figure bears on his shield the British Arms, and the first-named Triton, representing the enemies of Britain, is supposed to have succumbed to his superior strength. The harbour in the distance is a French Port. On the right is the figure of Mercy, holding a purse as emblematic of the wealth of the fleet of merchant ships seen at a distance.

In the prospectus issued by Mr. Bodger he described the Mere as “one of the greatest curiosities in this Kingdom, being a most spacious and beautiful fresh water lake, on which have been exhibited several regattas, at which were present many thousands of nobility, gentry, and others, from various parts, who were accommodated with upwards of 700 sailing vessels and boats.”

Then, having explained what would appear in the Chart and affixed his own name, he added the following piece of judicious advertising: "Estates surveyed and mapped in the most exact and elegant manner."

With the Chart the subscribers, whether for satin or paper copies, had every reason to be satisfied, and from a list of these which I have in my possession, I find they numbered about 320. At the bottom of the map was a list of sailing distances, &c., as follows:—

## SAILING DISTANCES.

		M.	F.	P.	Y.	
From Port Sandwich to	{	Folecotes Point .....	0	6	27	1
		Arnolds Shoals .....	1	3	32	0
		Swere Point .....	0	6	32	0
		Chalderbeach .....	1	6	32	1
Bevills to	{	Bevills .....	2	2	8	1
		Chalderbeach .....	0	7	16	4
Arnold's to Folecotes to	{	Arnolds .....	1	4	4	4
		Chalderbeach .....	1	4	38	1
		Swere Point .....	0	4	35	1

## DISTANCES AND FALLS.

		M.	F.	FT.	I.	
From Peterborough to	{	Whittlesea Mere .....	6	0	1	6
		Wisbeach .....	19	0	5	7
		Cross Keys Wash .....	26	5	12	4
		Eye at Sea .....	32	0	18	2
		Lynn .....	45	3	19	0
Whittlesea- mere to	{	Bar Beacon .....	50	5	27	1
		Eye at Sea .....	30	0		
Eye at Sea to Denver Sluice to	{	Bar Beacon at Sea .....	46	0		
		Bar Beacon .....			8	11
		Bar Beacon .....	21	5	21	4

The subjoined interesting historical memoranda also appear in the chart:—

**WHITTLESEA MERE**, the most spacious fresh water Lake in the Southern part of Great Britain, on which have been exhibited several Regattas, and Ice Boat Sailing, is situated on the Northern side of the County of Huntingdon, about thirty-eight miles West of the German Ocean; six miles down the Nene from the City of Peterborough, and two miles and three-quarters East of Stilton.—Its surface is 1,570 square acres, and in general the Depth varies considerably, and its circumference eight miles and three-quarters, abounding with a great variety of Water Fowl, and the following species of Fish, viz: Pike, Perch, Carp, Tench, Eels, Bream, Chub, Roach, Dace, Gudgeons, Shallows, &c., and in the summer months

is visited by many of the Nobility and Gentry from various parts, but at times is violently agitated without any visible cause, and is fed by the waters of a large tract of country, whose overplus makes its way down to the Sea. The difficulties are too great to deduce the Origin of this beautiful and extensive piece of water, and at best it would be enveloped in conjecture and obscurity so as not to give satisfaction to the generality of readers; but its Antiquity and Importance is visible by the authorities of Doomsday Book, History of Ramsey, in the Treasury, Speed, Dugdale, Cotton, and Original Grant, &c., by its having been so early as 664 granted by Wulpher, King of Mercia, to his new founded monastery of Medeshamstede (now Peterborough,) which was destroyed by the Danes in 870, when it reverted to the Crown.—In 966 King Edgar granted Geakeslea (now Yaxley) and Fearresheafod (now Farcet) to a faithful soldier called Ælfwine, from whose descendant they again became the possessions of Ramsey and Peterborough monasteries, lately rebuilt thro' the beneficence of St. Ethelwold, Bishop of Winchester.—Doomsday Book mentions that the Abbot of Ramsey had one Boatsgate, the Abbot of Peterborough one Boatsgate in his own right, and a second Boatsgate (which he held of the Abbot of Thorney) with two fisheries and one virgate of land; the Abbot of Thorney held two Boatsgates.—In 1244 Henry III. granted the manor of Glatton and Holme to his brother, Richard Earl of Cornwall, King of the Romans, who regranted them in 1261 to the Abbot of Ramsey, together with three cotes on Whittlesea Mere, with the lands and ditches round the said cotes.—In 1306 an inquest was made, when it appeared that the Abbot of Thorney had (in his own proper soil, abutting on the said Mere) five cotes; that the said Abbot (to whom the greater part of the said fishery truly belonged) had, by ancient custom, five Boatsgates, with all their appendages to fish in Whittlesey Mere, at all times, except during the time called Shelrode; (which beginneth a fortnight before St. George's day, and continueth a fortnight after).—To each of the said Boatsgates did belong forty Pollenets, forty Swerenets, twenty-four Widenets, twenty-four Bownets, one Draye, one Tramail, also Settingtawe, and Syrelepes at the will of the owner. In 1360 Edward III. granted the manor of Glatton and Holme to his son, John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster, when they became part of the Duchy lands.—In 1507 Henry VII. granted the office of Keeper of the Swannery on the Mere to David Cecil for the term of seven years.—By an Inquisition made in 1559, first of Elizabeth, it appeared that Edward VI. in 1554 (*sic*) had granted to Sir Walter Mildway, Kn<sup>t</sup> the manor of, and the King's lands in Farcet, with its appurtenances, &c., and that Court decreed that the north part of Whittlesea Mere from Arlmyndes Hill to Falstubb; was his property, and to avoid all future disputes Commissioners appointed for that purpose planted a Willow Tree on Arlmyndes Hill, and a post at Falstubb, and they also put down

three large Witch Piles in the water of the Mere between those places; which north part is now the private property of Lord Brownlow.—In 1612 James I. granted the manor of Glatton with Holme to Sir Robert Cotton, Kn. —In 1614 at an Inquisition held at Holme it appeared that there were fifteen Boatsgates belonging to the said Mere, the Earl of Lincoln had one, to which belonged one Night's Setting, the Church of Peterborough two, to which belonged one Night's Setting, Thomas Glapthorne two, Sir Anthony Mildmay one, Sir William Fitzwilliam one, Robert Aprece, Esq., one, and the Lord of the Manor seven.—In 1662 Charles II. granted to Edward Earl of Sandwich the office of Master of the Swans within the whole Kingdom of England, and also the office of Bailiff or Keeper of Whittlesey Mere.—The Lord of the Manor has a right to summon the fishermen (or Fenny-ferries) to his two courts holden at Holme, when presentments are made, and by his Bailiff prove the nets with a Brazen Gougle or Mesh Pin, (kept for that purpose) and on being found under size, he is at liberty to take a fine or destroy them. Likewise has a right to seize all nets and poles used in Shelrode, and is entitled to fines and forfeitures for all blood shed on the said Mere with other manerial (*sic*) rights, &c., &c.—The present rights of Fishing are as follows, Viz<sup>t</sup> William Wells, Esq<sup>r</sup> Lord of Glatton with Holme, eleven Boatsgates, Lord Brownlow, Lord of Farcet, one, and a private fishery, the Church of Peterborough, two, and Lord Carysfort, one.

NAVIGATION "Canals," proposed by Kinderly, and others, as appears on the Map of Rivers, which, if carried into execution would unite Welland River to Witham; Bevill's to Nene, and the Nene to the Ouse: the streams would then be forcible and open deep channels to the Sea, to the great advantage of navigation and drainage.—The Ouse is a river of great navigation and drainage, in many respects rivals the Humber and the Severn. It has its head on a rising ground full of springs under Hinton and Brackley, in Northamptonshire, and carries off the great collected body of water it hath brought with it out of ten counties into the German Ocean, below the Port of Lynn, having made a course of one hundred and sixty miles.—The Map comprises part of fifteen counties, and all the navigable rivers from their spring-heads, that have their Influx into the Sea, below the Ports of Boston, Wisbeach and Lynn. Also Marshland, and the Great Level of the Fens, the latter extending in length upwards of sixty miles, in breadth forty, and contains upwards of six hundred thousand square acres.

The names which appear in the Chart are interesting, for although the Mere was not drained until 1851, most of them have passed into oblivion. Possibly, old residents in the neighbourhood could point out some of these spots, which were then so well-known, as Falstubb Point, the Reed Bush, Point Grounds, Breeks, but the greater number—except for this Chart—have been entirely

lost sight of. The illustration which appears in this number is reproduced from a satin copy of the Chart in the possession of Mr. C. Dack, of Peterborough.

**29.—The Apreece Family of Washingley.**—Mr. Carter, of Kimbolton, asks for the Christian name of the Apreece of Washingley Hall, Huntingdonshire, who was shot by the Parliamentary soldiers at Lincoln, in 1644.

**30.—Chatteris, co. Cambs.**—What is the probable origin and signification of the name Chatteris? In the 1st vol. of *Gentlemen's Magazine*, p. 30, in article of the town, the name is supposed to be derived from *Chartreuse*, as there was a Nunnery at Chatteris, founded in 980, A.D., but this was a Benedictine convent, and the Carthusian order was of a later date. In Domesday it is spelt Chatriz. Dugdale always wrote it Chateriz.

S. H. MILLER.

**31.—The French Colony at Thorney.**—(No. 25).—The date of the license to Stephen de Cursol to preach at Thorney is said to be 1600. There was not a French Congregation at Thorney at that date. The Survey of Thorney, quoted by Warner, would probably be made in 1594. The Manor was in possession of the Crown in 1596. In 1605 the first Drainage Bill was rejected by Parliament on the third reading—quoting a treatise written in 1629—“At Thorney Abbey my Lord of Bedford lets between 300 and 400 acres of rising ground upon which the Abbey stands, for £300 per annum, whereas the rest of the Lordship of Thorney, containing 16,000 or 17,000 acres of drowned ground is estimated as it now lieth of little or no value.” Even in 1638 the fact that Thorney being inaccessible in winter time was made an excuse for not collecting £20 Ship money. In 1630 the Drainage Works commenced under the Earl of Bedford and 13 gentlemen adventurers. Vermuyden was afterwards introduced into the Bedford Level. He had previously in November, 1628, made a contract for the Drainage of certain lands in the Isle of Axholme. He and his

co-adventurers the Participants, as they were there called, brought over Dutch, Walloons, and French from Normandy, and other parts of France, who stipulated for certain rights, which were readily granted. Among these was the right to worship according to the dictates of their conscience. They founded congregations and had pastors to preach to them in their own tongue.\* Of this congregation there is a precious relic preserved at Thorney, a French Register of Baptisms during 1654—1727, a small folio containing 1710 entries.

We may note on the appointment of "*de Cursoll*" by Bishop Wren, that Warner gives in the first edition of his History of Thorney, 1640 as the date, which I should say is nearer the mark. We find persons of the same name prominent members of the two congregations at Santoft and Thorney. David Le Conte represented Santoft at the Coloque in London. The same name afterwards occurs as the Thorney representative. It is fair to assume the congregation at Santoft was formed prior to that of Thorney.

It appears that Peter Bontemps was the first Pastor at Santoft. He was brought over by the Participants (most probably with the approbation of the Bishop of the Diocese). In June, 1636, he writes: "I have dwelt here nearly two years, during which time the number of strangers in this place has increased by more than one-half, and is still daily increasing." He asks, If a Church for the French congregation is not to be built and maintained? that he may be dismissed? He left in August, 1636. He practised the Geneva discipline in all things by Deacons and Elders. According to *Dr. Farmerie*, the Chancellor, in his letter to the Bishop, who, after the congregation had been without a Minister for the space of two years, 1638, sent down among them *Dr. Cursol*, "who had taken the Oathes of Allegiance

\* They were not poor illiterate men, to be compared with our navvies of the present day. They were, from all we gather, steady, upright people, men of education and abilities. In 1656 they appealed to Cromwell for protection. Of the 54 persons who signed the petition, only three signed by *mark*. In this they compare very favourably with a Grand Jury at Wisbech within the memory of the writer, one of whom signed with a cross.

Supremaice and Canonical obeidieney to your Grace." *Lauds* reign of persecution was shewing signs of coming to an end early in 1640. Before the year was out we hear of a petition, "To the House of Lords, on behalf of the French, and Dutch congregation assembled in the Isle of Axholme, for redress against the above-quoted Dr. Farmery, complaining that they did not enjoy the free exercise of their religion, *as it was in those parts reformed from whence they came;*" and that he further thrust upon them one "Cursoll," a *Franciscan friar*. Such being their opinions of the man, it need not be a matter of surprize that he was not recognised and never officiated at Thorney. In evidence he was spoken of very disrespectfully. M. Dispaigne was heard to say, that M. de Cursoll was a thief, that he had stolen from the people of his Church £30 sterling, that he was a very bad and dishonest man.

In 1643 we hear of John d' Espagne, a minister of the French Church at Santoft, and Stephen Cursoll who likewise pretends himself to be a minister for private ends, and by respects endeavouring to disturb the peace and quiet of the French congregation in London. Such was Cursoll from what we gather, and his appointment to Thorney by Wren could not be earlier than 1640, from the best evidence we can command.

S. E.

**32.—An Ancient Custom at Bourn.**—The following is a cutting from the *Grantham Journal* of April 13th, 1889:—In accordance with the provisions of the will of William Clay, gentleman, of Bourn, in the year 1742, who gave land, the rent of which is to be expended yearly in white bread, to be distributed among the householders and commoners in the Eastgate Ward, the Constable's half-acre and the Dike-reeves half-acre were let by auction on the Queen's bridge on Saturday evening. Mr. F. J. Shilcock, the auctioneer, read the conditions of sale, which provided that two good loads of manure should be put upon the land, that the fence be kept in proper repair, and that the bush in the centre of the field be not cut or injured in any way. The most

curious part of the auction is the manner in which the bidding is regulated. Two lads are started by the auctioneer to run a certain distance for a prize. Whilst they are running the bidding is carried on, and the person who has made the highest bid by the time the lads return becomes the tenant for the ensuing year.

**33.—Local Rhymes.**—(No. 19). I have heard many local rhymes from old inhabitants of this district which have been handed down from generation to generation by oral tradition, and, unless they are preserved in pages of Local Notes and Queries they may be lost altogether. Amongst others are the following, more nearly connected with "Fenland":—

When the Grand Sluice was opened on 15th October, 1766, it disappointed many who came to the opening ceremony, and one of the disappointed ones gave vent to his feelings by composing the following—

Boston! Boston! Boston!  
Thou hast naught to boast on  
But a Grand Sluice, and a high Steeple,  
A proud, conceited ignorant people,  
And a coast where souls are lost on.

Another version of this rhyme is as follows—

O! Boston! Boston!  
What hast thou to boast on?  
But a proud people,  
And a lofty steeple,  
And a coast where ships are lost on, lost on.

This has since been altered to—

Boston, O Boston! What hast thou to boast on?  
High Steeple, proud People, and Sands Ships are lost on.

Boston is again coupled with Skirbeck, and Boston pride appears always to call for notice—

Though Boston be a proud town,  
Skirbeck compass it all around.

And another—

Skirbeck straddle wide,  
Boston full o' pride.

Then a rhyme on some neighbouring Churches—

Gosberton Church is very high,  
Surfleet Church is all awry,  
Pinchbeck Church is in a hole,  
And Spalding Church is big with foal.



The following refers to Crowland—

In Holland stands Crowland,  
 Built on dirty low land,  
 Where you'll find, if you go,  
 The wine's but so-so ;  
 The blades of the hay  
 Are like swords, one may say ;  
 The beds are like stones,  
 And break a man's bones ;  
 The men rough and sturdy,  
 And nought they afford ye,  
 But bid you good bye,  
 When both hungry and dry.

Another rhyme on Crowland is—

In Holland, O hark ! stands Crowland, d' ye mark !  
 There's wine such as 'tis ; there's hay like a swys ;  
 There's beds hard as stone ; and when you will you may be gone.

And there is one of very great antiquity—

Crowland as courteous as courteous may be,  
 Thorney the bane of many a good tree ;  
 Ramsey the rich, and Peterborough the proud,  
 Sawtry by the way, that poor abbaye, gives more alms than all they.

Or, as the lines appear in another form—

Ramsey the rich, of gold and fee ;  
 Thorney the grower of many a fair tree ;  
 Croyland the courteous of their meat and drink ;  
 Spalding the gluttons as men do think.  
 Peterborough the proud,  
 Sawtry by the way,  
 That old abbaye  
 Gave more alms than all they.

Here is one referring to Gainsborough and Luddington—

Gainsborough proud people  
 Built new Church to old Steeple ;  
 Whilst Luddington poor people  
 Built brick Church to stone Steeple.

There is a turnpike road between Spalding and Tydd called Hargate, which was very dangerous, and the warning is given as follows—

Be ye early, or be ye late,  
 I pray ye beware of Fleet Hargate.

In Peterborough I have heard an old inhabitant say when the Cathedral and St. John's Church clocks have struck the hour together—

When the Church and the Abbey, they both strike together,  
There'll be either a death or a change in the weather.

The following is a curious old piece of folk lore connected with Peterborough—

If in the minster close a hare  
Should for itself have made a lair;  
Be sure before the week is down,  
A fire will rage within the town.

A similar superstition refers to Ramsey—

Should a hare in hasty flight,  
Scamper through the Ramsey Whyte;  
Be sure before three days are gone,  
A fire will blaze in Ramsey town.

The following refers to the antiquity of Rising—

Rising was a seaport town  
And Lynn it was a wash,  
But Lynn is now the seaport town  
And Rising fares the worst.

A somewhat similar rhyme refers to Lincoln, and is of very great antiquity—

Lincoln was, York is, and London yet will be,  
The greatest Girvain City of the three.

Another similar saying—

Northorp rise and Grayingham fall,  
Kirton shall yet be greater than all,

Then another—

Butterwick o'er Frieston once held sway,  
But now it is quite the other way.

A not very flattering rhyme refers to Sutton—

Sutton long! Sutton long!  
At every door a heap of dung.  
Some two, some three,  
The dirtiest town you ever did see.

Another rhyme says—

An Aukham cel, and a Witham pike,  
All England cannot show the like.

There are not many wonders in Huntingdonshire if the following is true, for two out of the three have ceased to exist—

Lutton hill, Yaxley still mill, and Whittlesey mere,  
Are the three wonders of Huntingdonshire.

Referring to the rhyme in Part I. of *Fenland Notes and*

*Queries* about Downham Winnold Fair, I heard rather a different version from my Grandfather more than twenty years ago, when he was over 90 years old—

First come David, then come Chad,  
Then comes Winnold as if he was mad.

CHARLES DACK, Peterborough.

**34.—Whirling Sunday at Leverington.**—The Rev. Fredk. Carlyon, M.A., rector of Leverington, writes concerning the Whirlwind Cakes spoken of in No. 18, Part I., and speaks of it as “Whirling” Sunday. It is the Sunday in Mid-Lent, and he adds: None of the old people know anything of the origin of the Legend. But there are still many who recollect when there was a regular pleasure fair held in Leverington on Whirling Sunday, when a particular kind of whirling cake was made in most houses, and sports of all kinds, especially boxing matches, were carried on, and a regular holiday observed. There was no religious ceremony that I can hear of observed on the day beyond the ordinary Church Services. Whirling cakes still continue to be made in one or two houses, but that and the memory of the day only remain. The Legend of the old woman being whirled over the church steeple is still repeated.

FREDK. CARLYON, the Rectory, Leverington.

**35.—Gedney, co. Lincoln.**—What is the origin and meaning of the prefix of this name? The termination is Saxon, corrupted from *eā* water.

S. H. MILLER.

**36.—State Prisoners at Wisbech.**—(No. 10). Your correspondent A.P. will find some additional particulars concerning the State Prisoners at Wisbech, which I believe have hitherto escaped the attention of local historians, in “Memoirs of Missionary Priests,” printed in 1742, and which contains an interesting account of the imprisonment in Wisbech Castle of Fr. Tunstal and his subsequent martyrdom at Norwich. The note on p. 70 of “Jesuits in Conflict,” also furnishes some new matter, and several names and other particulars of prisoners

are given in "Troubles of our Catholic Forefathers," by F. Morris, S.J. H. C. COLPMAN, Wisbech.

Rt. Gatesby, should be Robt. Catesby, who was frequently imprisoned for his Recusancy in the reign of Elizabeth, and was probably the same individual who played a prominent part in the Gunpowder Plot of November, 1605. At some future time I will forward the will of Dr. Watson, the imprisoned Bp. of Lincoln. JUSTIN SIMPSON.

**37.—Fen Provincialisms.**—As local Dialects and Provincialisms, like many other relics of past times, are dying out from amongst us, it may not be uninteresting or unprofitable to direct attention to those we have heard in East Anglia—their derivation and peculiarities—in the pages of *Fenland Notes and Queries*. A perfect or complete list would be very difficult or impossible. If I can only succeed in making my collection interesting, perchance some readers with leisure and inclination will also contribute.

We live in a progressive age—railroads, telegraphs, penny postage, and cheap education—all are supposed to understand the "three R's," and travel more or less. As we go through the country, coming in contact with a great variety of character, our own should become more polished. Like pebbles on the beach, whose angles and rough edges are gradually worn off by constant attrition, so men, by a species of mental attrition, which is as constantly going on, if they will keep abreast the times, lose much of that angularity, once their characteristic. The bump of locality—if there be one? and phrenologists can perhaps enlighten us on that point—is not so strongly developed. Men become more cosmopolitan in their ideas.

"Local Legends lose their charm,  
Old wives' warnings do no harm."

The language of the lower orders has by these means been much improved, and that of the different parts of the country assimilated. The *conservative* tendency of the poor has in the past been somewhat remarkable in this respect. To the unconquered poor of a country we owe a debt for unwritten history; it is they who have preserved the local legends and the numberless place names

that have been handed down to us from the remote past, to each of which may be attached a hidden meaning well worthy a portion of our attention and study. Names are not mere empty sounds—meaningless—chance combination of letters. There is much in our place names, dialects, and provincialisms that have an antiquity and depth of meaning—that few among educated, even highly cultivated persons, who have given little attention to the subject, can easily comprehend. Other words in common use are mere slang terms, devoid of meaning in the proper sense of the term, and unworthy a place in the vocabulary of an educated man or a gentleman. As many provincialisms will ere long be numbered with the past, forgotten, lost in oblivion, some of a future generation may be grateful for the preservation of a few of those words and phrases we have noted in the Fens of East Anglia.

**ADDLE.**—To earn. A gradual increase. To grow. To thrive. It occurs in *Townley Mysteries*, p. 195.

“With goodmen’s hogs, or corn or hay,  
I *addle* my ninepence every day.”

He was *addling* good wages. A.S. *adlean*. It is said also of a swelling with matter in it; that it is *addled*, viz., morbid, corrupt, putrid. *addle-pate* is frequently heard: O! he is a poor addlepated fellow; viz., a stupid, thoughtless person; empty headed. (Saxon, *aidlian*, to be empty.) *Addled*,—Addled egg, a rotten one, or one that has lost the principle of vitality; sometimes called a shire egg on that account. The *Gossards* in the Fens (goose herds) when the eggs have been sat on for a certain time, take them from under the goose and shire them, viz., examine them with a light. An experienced person is thus able to say whether they have vitality or not. They are then disposed of before they are become addled. (Welsh, *hadl*, rotten).

Tusser says—

When Ivye Embraseth the tree very sore,  
Kill Ivye, or tree else will *addle* no more.

**AGAR, AGER.**—Sometimes spelled higre. In fact the spellings are various. A peculiar and dangerous violence of the tide in some rivers. Supposed to be caused by the confluence of two streams, or the channel becoming narrower or shallower, as in the case of the Wash. The first wave of the tide rising high above the preceding one—so high as to be dangerous to boatmen. Sometimes, hence the cry, ‘ware Ego, the *ager* is out,’ when danger was apprehended from it. This sudden rush of water was of much more frequent occurrence in the Ouse, Nene, and Witham formerly than of late years. One effect of modern drainage works and enclosures is to

- make this phenomena of very rare occurrence; in fact, almost unknown. It is the name of the Northern God of the Sea, applied like Neptune to the Sea itself. In one or other mode of spelling it is used by Drayton, Dryden, Camden, and others; vide, C. Anderson, Scand. Mythology—Near Bridgewater this peculiar first flowing of the water (tidal wave) which at Spring Tides is one, two, or more feet in height, is called the "Bore," (Boreas?)
- AN ALL.**—Also. "He is goin' an' all."
- AT ALL.**—I'm not going "at all" that I'm 'ware of. Nothing "at all," nothing whatever. A feeble expletive, which adds nothing to the meaning of the sentence to which it is attached; vide, The Deans English, p. 110.
- AS YET.**—At present. "I can't help you as yet." "As yet I have not been able to do it."
- ASH KEYS.**—The seed vessels of the ash tree. It is said by some that the failure of a crop of ash keys portends a death in the Royal Family; vide, Forby, p. 406.
- AX'D OUT.**—Asked out. Having had the banns of marriage published three times, they were said to be ax'd out. "Ax," although pure Saxon, is now generally considered, a vulgarism.
- ABOUT.**—He'll soon be about again; said of a person recovering from illness.
- ARSY VARSY.**—Vice versa. The terms of the case being reversed. Heels over head; wrong end forward.
- BACK'S UP (HIS).**—"He's offended; his back is up."
- BADLY.**—I'm queer, badly; not very well. 1.—Sick, ill; "How is your wife, King? "Oh, she's sadly *badly*, sir, she can't be spore (i.e. spared) me long I fear." 2.—Very much; "That horse has been neglected, he wants attention *badly*."
- BACK AN' EDGE.**—He swore back an' edge—completely, entirely.
- BATCH.**—A quantity of anything. A batch of bread; *i.e.*, the quantity baked at one time.
- BARE BUBBLING.**—Unfledged; as a young bird.
- BAIT (TO).**—To rest and feed a horse on a journey. To tease; as baiting the bull.
- BANGING.**—A great banging fellow; large, heavy.
- BESLINGS, BEASTINGS.**—The first milk from a cow after calving, A.S. *Bystings*, used by Ben Jonson.
- BENTS.**—Dry stalks of grass after summer grazing. Teutonic, *Bentz*.
- BOTTLE.**—A bundle of straw or hay, tied up with a band, is called a bottle of hay. Bottle is the diminutive of *botte*, French. A bundle, "as *botte de foin*, a bundle of hay." *Midnight Dream*, Act iv., Scene 1.: Bottom—"Methinks I have a great desire to a bottle of hay."
- BLAMED.** It is a common imprecation, "Blame me," a mild oath. "I'll be blamed if it is not so"; *i.e.*, condemned.

**BLEB.**—A bubble. A blister.

**BLEE.**—Open. Bleak. "It stands all out in the *blee*."

**BORN DAYS.**—"I never heard such a thing afore in all my *born days*." Lifetime.

S. EGAR.

**38.—Holbech, co. Lincoln.**—When was this name corrupted into Holbeach? Some Court Rolls may show. Dugdale and others have it Holbeche. Was the place once called Oldbeche, as it stood on a small stream, which was thus distinguished from Newgate, running by Weston? See Dugdale, p. 232.

S. H. MILLER.

**39.—Marriage Banns in Boston Market Place.**—In 1654, an Act was passed directing that no marriage be celebrated without a certificate from the Register proving that the banns had been published three successive Lord's days at the close of the morning exercise, in the public meeting place, commonly called the church or chapel, or, if the parties preferred, in the Market-place, on three successive market-days. At Boston, Lincolnshire, the announcements in the Market-place were more popular than those of the church. It appears from the Registers in the years 1656, 1657, and 1658, there were proclaimed in the market-place 102, 104, and 108, and in the church during those years 48, 31, and 52, banns.

WILLIAM ANDREWS, Hull.

**40.—Lincolnshire Rampers.**—Can any of your readers tell me why raised roads in Lincolnshire are called "Rampers?" Is it a corruption of "Rampart?"

CHARLES DACK.

**41.—Moulton Vicarage, Lincolnshire.**—In the early years of this century, there was scarcely a resident Vicar or Rector in the various parishes of the Elloe division, although the churches are the most beautiful in the County of Lincoln, the parishes large, and the livings "*fat*." The Vicars lived far away and kept a curate to do the two services of a Sunday, or in some cases only one service was held. Sometimes the curate did the work of two parishes at almost starvation stipends. Holbeach, Moulton, Whaplode, Whaplode Drove, Weston, and Gedney, had non-resident vicars. Dr. Johnson, of Spalding, an active magistrate,

was one of the non-resident class. The late Dr. Moore held Moulton and Spalding up to the time of his death. The last of the pluralists was the late Vicar of Spalding, Canon Moore, who held Weston and Whaplode Drove, and was also the Head Master of Spalding Grammar School, and lived at Spalding. These he gave up when he was appointed Vicar of Spalding.

The following letter casts a strong light upon the Ecclesiastical history of the district at the time :—

Ayscough Fee Hall, Spalding,

Dear Sir,

March 7th, 1827.

I should have troubled you some weeks ago upon the subject of my License for non-residence, had not the loss of poor Mrs. Johnson disqualified me from writing, and I am yet almost unequal to the task. I have drawn up the petition, I trust, under existing circumstances, properly, and you are well acquainted with the Business, and can explain to our recently elected, and most worthy Diocesan, whatever he may think proper to ask.

I take this opportunity to inform you that several friends of mine have communicated a piece of Intelligence, and which, as you have not transmitted, appears to me unfounded, viz.: that Lord Boston has thought proper upon the next avoidance of the Vicarage of Moulton to enter a caveat against my Executors presenting

beg leave to state the two Suits in C

commenced in that Court in rest

Presentation, and to the perpetual

Vicarage on or about the year 1755, and two Decrees obtained in Favour of my late Father, Col. Maurice Johnson, who thereupon nominated his Brother, the late Rev<sup>d</sup> John Johnson, who was instituted by the Bp. of Lincoln (Dr. Reynolds, I believe) and continued Vicar till his death, which happened in 1760, when he again presented his Brother in Law, the Rev<sup>d</sup> Jno. Lodge, who enjoyed till his death, and after that event HE [\*Geo. Williamson, 1767] presented the Rev<sup>d</sup> Christopher Williamson, who, also, enjoyed it till his death in 1780, when I was instituted at Buckden upon my *own petition*, and have quietly and *uninterruptedly* held the same to this day, a period of Forty six years and an Half. My great grandfather, Maurice Johnson, instituted the Suits against Sir Edward Irby, Bart., ancestor of Lord Boston. If my Information be correct, which I cannot

A piece  
torn off.

ask the favour of you to inform me the Business can *again* be brought nature *forthwith* that my

Torn off.

Executors may have no occasion

to litigate the Matter after my decease.

In the year 1794 an Act of Parliament was passed for the Inclosure

\* Apparently in another hand.



of the Parish Moulton, and a Commutation of Land in Lieu of Titles was directed, by sanction of the present Bp. of Winchester, and I am expressly *named* and *recognised* in the Act as *Impropriator* and *Vicar*, as well as *Patron of the Vicarage*.

"And Whereas, (by my then Title The Rev<sup>d</sup> Maurice Johnson is Impropriator, and also *Patron* of the *Vicarage of Moulton*, and also *Vicar*," as by Reference to the said Act will appear.

I shall be glad to hear from you at your earliest convenience. You may tell the Bishop of Lincoln that, independently of residing in my own Mansion House at Spalding, I continue regularly to assist my Son in Law, the Rev<sup>d</sup> Dr Moore, by preaching for him every Sunday.

I must apologize for troubling you with so long a letter, and remain,  
Dear Sir,                      Your faithful and obliged Servant,

MAURICE JOHNSON.

To Richard Smith, Esq.,  
Secretary to the Lord Bishop of Lincoln,  
Buckden, Hunts.

**42.—Four Hundred Persons destroyed by a Coat at Ramsey.**—NOBLE, in his *Memoirs of the Cromwell's*, vol. i., p. 56, says, "That Major Cromwell died of the plague at Ramsey, Huntingdonshire, on the morning of February the 23rd, 1666, and was buried next evening in the church there. He caught the infection by wearing a coat, the cloth of which came from London; and the tailor that made the coat, with all his family, died of the same terrible disorder, as did no less than four hundred people in Ramsey, as appears by the register, and all owing to this fatal coat."

C. GOLDING, Colchester.

**43.—Fen Tigers.**—During Elections or other times of excitement we hear the inhabitants of the Fen districts called "Fen Tigers." Can any of your correspondents enlighten me on its origin? Is it from "Fen Dykers," a name which might have been given to the men who drained the Fens?

CHARLES DACK.

**44.—Hawkins of Marshland.**—In September, 1883, the following letter was received by Mr. S. H. Miller, F.R.A.S., of Lowestoft, from Mr. C. G. Field, of 168, Castle Hill, Reading:—

"Some few months ago a handsome Silver Cup came into my possession having the inscription, copy of which is enclosed.

I should very much like to know something of the history of the cup, and should be much obliged if you will give me some information of the man Hawkins and his acts, to which the inscription refers, in case in the course of your researches you have ascertained anything about him. I must plead, as my excuse for troubling you, the interest you evidently take in matters relating to the district."

I have never been able to satisfy the enquiry made in this letter for want of some such medium as *Fenland Notes and Queries*, but if any one will be good enough to throw light on the subject, I have no doubt others besides Mr. Field would be gratified. I expect there is a record of the event which took this Mr. Hawkins to Marshland—probably in the annals of some corporate body connected with the drainage.

INSCRIPTION ON SILVER CUP.

*On Lid.*

Expatiata ruunt per apertos flumina Campos Cumq : Satis Arbusta  
Simul pecudesq : virosq : Tectaq : cumq : suis rapiunt penetralia  
Sacris.

*On Cup.*

When by stern Neptune's rage and Boreas spleen  
Marshland in great extremity was seen  
The Banks the Bulwarks of that fatal land  
Being broken down by Nereus dread command  
All look'd for death all did their state deplore  
And sought assistance from the helpless shore  
But sought, till friendly HAWKINS-came, in vain  
The swelling torrents madness to restrain  
He taught us Neptune's fury to withstand  
Preserved our cattle houses and our land  
Therefore that when He shal submitt to fate  
His children may His generous acts relate  
We that are owners of these doubtfull plains  
A token that our Gratitude remains  
This Cheering Cup to Him do recommend  
Our kind preserver and our greatest friend.

MDCCLXXXV. FEBY. XVI.

Benjamin Levi, Sculp., 1743.

S. H. MILLER.

45.—A Water Spout at Deeping, Cowbit, Moulton, &c.—“On the 5th of May, 1752, about seven in the evening, a water-spout fell from the clouds on Deeping Fen, in the county of Lincoln,

and took its progress in a very indirect manner, to the county bank or dike, whence it carried every thing that lay loose thereon, such as straw, hay, and stubble, violently before it. When it came into the middle of Cowbit Wash, where it was first seen, it was a dreadful sight to behold this moving meteor there fixed for several minutes, spouting out water to a considerable height, perhaps two yards ; so that it seemed as if the law of nature was inverted, to see water ascending, and all the time attended with a terrible noise. Upon the second rout, it made to the river ; on its arrival there, it discovered its length with some certainty, for it reached from side to side, the river being about three yards over ; in its marching along it drove the water before it in a rapid torrent, tearing in its passage a fishing-net : when it arrived at the church, it there stopped again, but not above a minute, whence it arose, and made its passage through the space that is between the church and the parsonage-house, without doing hurt to either ; so that however natural the cause may be, yet surely its progression could not be without the direction of him who rides in a whirlwind, and directs the storm. On its departing hence, the straw, hay, and stubble fell down upon the land in showers. This strange phenomenon ascended not far before it fell down again upon the land ; in passing through a small track of seed turnips, it broke in its way the stems from the roots. A gate it forced from off its hinges, and a stone it broke to pieces, and when at a distance it looked like a pillar of smoke ; when it passed a little beyond Moulton Chapel, it evaporated into a cloud, and was succeeded by a violent storm of hail, and after that of rain."

C. GOLDING, Colchester.

**46.—Queen Katten's Day at Peterborough.**—I remember a quaint old custom which used to be observed at Peterborough, but I know nothing of its origin or meaning. One day in November (I cannot remember which day) used to be locally called Queen Katten's day. On that occasion a party of people were accustomed to parade the streets of the city, the chief of whom was dressed as a queen, and they had a quaint ditty, which they sang in front

of the houses of the principal residents. The song had several verses, all of which concluded with this chorus :—

Some says she's alive, some say she's dead,  
But now she does appear with a crown upon her head ;  
And a spinning we will go,  
And a spinning we will go.

J. L. BLAKE.

**47.—Total Eclipse of the Sun in the Fens in 1715.**—The Total Eclipse of the Sun, 22nd April, 1715, passed over the whole of Lincolnshire and over the greater part of England and Wales—extending from Cheshire to Sussex. The central line of the Moon's shadow ran through the Fen district, about midway between Wisbeach and Holbeach ; totality would occur in those places about 9.15 a.m. Are any local records of the phenomena known ?

C. J. C.

**48.—A Holbeach Vicar and the Northamptonshire Family of Pymlow.**—Can any reader of *Fenland Notes and Queries* say from what Parish in Northamptonshire came the Rev. John Pimlow, Vicar of Holbeach from 1660—1672. He was instituted to Holbeach 1660 (17th June), and I find he was a Sizer of Emmanuel College, *Cambridge*, where it is recorded that he came from the County of Northampton, but the *place* is not mentioned. He was admitted 23rd February, 1638—9, and the name is written "Pimlow" in the books of the College, and "Pymloe" in the University books. He took his B.A. degree in 1642. He was buried in the Chancel of Holbeach Church, "beneath the Communion Table." His Will I have a copy of. He leaves in it, "to my daughter Clare Pymlowe my farm at Little Weldon, Northamptonshire," but there is no entry in the Parish Register there of that name. His predecessor at Holbeach was John Bellenden, of whom I should also be glad of any information.

GRANT W. MACDONALD,

St. Mark's Vicarage, Holbeach.

## 49.—Curious Customs in Collecting Tithes in the Fens.—

The following particulars concerning an interesting bill of complaint, instituted by Ralph Aveling, of Whittlesea, in 1591, are curious as illustrating the manner of collecting tithes in the Fenland at that time :—

“Feb. 12, 1591, 33rd Eliz. The manner of Tything settled in execution of a Commission from the Barons of the Exchequer, date Feb. 12, 1591.

“Recites Strifes, &c. between parishioners and inhabitants of Whittlesey S. Mary and George Wallis Gentleman tenant and farmer of the Rectory and Parsonage of Whittlesey S. Mary.

“And whereas Ralph Aveling and other inhabitants of W.S.M. and W.S.A. in the name of themselves as also of all other the Parishioners and Inhabitants of (Qy.) M. being all customary tenants unto the Queen's most excellent Majesty of Her Highness' manor of W.S.M. have for the Proof of the custom and manner of tything exhibited their English bill of complaint . . . against the said Geo: Wallis. A commission bearing date 12 Feb. 1591 (33 Eliz:) directed unto

ROBERT BEVILL Esq.

THOMAS NEVILLE D.D.

ROBERT TRICE Esq.

ROBERT MILLSSENT Gentleman.

to assemble at Peterborough by examination of witnesses &c. to find out customs . . . and by their discretion finally to end and determine strifes and controversies. By virtue of this Commission in the 33<sup>rd</sup> year 1591-2 did assemble upon the deliberate hearing by virtue of their com<sup>th</sup> as also by consent and agreement . . . tried and found out by the oaths and depositions of Ralph Aveling, Robert Searle, Robert Kelfull, Will: Speechly and others, and decreed as followeth:—

CALVES.—Any person having 9 calves falling after Feast of S. Martin the Bp. in Winter (Martinmas) before the same Feast next following to pay on the latter Feast day—One tythe calf receiving back 2½d. Any having 10 calves between Martinmas and M. next at noon the tythe owner to choose the 3<sup>rd</sup> calf. Under 9 calves owner to pay at Easter following for every cow and calf 2½d. If above 10 and under 19 then for all above 10 2½d. at Easter.

- COWS.**—Any person having new milch cows betwixt Martinmas and M. whose calves shall die or be lost shall pay 2d. for every old milch cow which shall have no calf 1d.
- FOALS.**—For every foal under the No. of 9 between M. and M. 1d. 9 foals 1 for tythe less 1d. returned Tythe foal to be paid as tythe calf (Qy. the 3rd). Sons and daughters &c. having cattle given to them (by parents or master excepted) or who shall buy with their own money to pay tythes as others.
- LAMBS.**—For 9 lambs at clipping day 1 lamb the owner to chuse 2 of the 9 tythe owner the 3rd to pay back 0½d. Ten lambs the 3rd for tythe under nine for each 0½d. 10 and under 19 as for calves.
- WOOL.**—For every 5 lbs. of wool ½d. a pound. If less than 5 lbs. 0½d. for every fleece.
- PIGS.**—For 9 between Easter and Easter 1 pig when it is a fortnight old if *the owner do kill or make away with the rest*. If weaned the tythe to be paid at 6 weeks old paying back 0½d.—the owner to chuse and the tythe to be 3rd. Ten pigs 1 for tythe. Under 9 0½d. for each.
- EGGS.**—Every person having cocks and hens to (qy. 5) at Easter in full satisfaction.
- DUCKS.**—For laying ducks 0½d. each—for 9 one young duck and 0½d. back.
- GEESE.**—For 9 geese one tythe and 0½d. back under 9 0½d. each.
- HEMP.**—The grower to pull and use the hemp tythe as their own (*except the watering thereof*) and to carry the tenth sheaf unto the Parsonage gate—No tythe for hemp seed.
- FLAX.**—Grower to put water thereon and use the tythe as they do their own and to carry the 10<sup>th</sup> sheaf to the Parsonage gate. Not to pay tythe for seed—the pulling, drying, carrying, dressing in lieu of tythe of seed.
- WHEAT, RYE, BARLEY, OATS, PEAS, &c.**—The owner lays 18 sheaves at every heap or shock and layeth out 2 sheaves by the furrow with the top towards the ridge. For loose corn tythe the 10<sup>th</sup> shock.
- HAY.**—No tith of Hay in the fields because the Parson has tythe grass 80<sup>s</sup> on the west of the Town at Northley Gravel. 12<sup>s</sup> in King's Delph in lieu of tythe of Hay.
- FRUIT.**—Owner to gather and carry the 10<sup>th</sup> to Parsonage, onions, leeks, garlic, gourds, cucumbers, pompions, and all kinds of roots and fruits and for honey and wax to carry ½ to Parsonage. No tythe for herbs and flowers. No tythe for timber or stubble.
- EASTER OFFERINGS.**—Every man and his wife 2½d. widows 1d. Servants that take no wages nothing. Any arable lands unsown and hereafter mowed to pay tith in kind.
- Whereas certain *spells* of ground used as common pasture if any of them (except the Pingle) shall be laid for hay tythe in kind or if hay sold ⅓ to be paid. Willows, osiers, wittings, or alders *whercof no common is taken* to pay tythe where the same shall be cut. No

Tythe for willows, osiers, alders, or any kind of Fewell or Fodder as Thack Reed, Sedge Hassock growing in any of the waste grounds, waters fens marshes or moors.

Bread and wine for Communion to be provided by the Inhabitants. All other tythes to be subject to the Ecc<sup>l</sup>. Laws.

Signed R. BEVILL. R. MILLESENT. TH. NEVILL."

After follows an Agreement between the Lords and Tenants of the Manor (after a long contest) for the Fen Tythes so far as relates to grain—

Wheat 3.9 an acre Barley 3.3 Oats 2/3 Coleseed 5/- Grass and green seed 4/-.

This latter is undated, and would seem to be a copy of a late composition. The mention of *Coleseed* is almost conclusive on this point, unless it was grown in England earlier than has been hitherto supposed.

**50.—Wisbech Saint Mary's Church.**—The parish church of Wisbech St. Mary is about to undergo a general restoration. The chancel was restored recently by the owners of the great tithes. The church consists of a chancel, nave, aisles, tower, and south porch. The prevailing style of its architecture is Perpendicular Gothic of the end of the fifteenth century. The tower arch is early pointed Gothic of the end of the fourteenth century, of which style there are also traces in the moulding of the north door, and it is not improbable that the bases of the columns that divide the aisles from the nave represent a church of a still earlier date, possibly one of Norman times. The clerestory is probably a later addition. The font is as old as any part of the church. The tower, which is embattled, is an interesting piece of ancient masonry, and contains a set of five bells. The turret of the sanctus bell, surmounted by a cross, still remains on the eastern apex of the nave. There are many gravestones in the churchyard, the oldest of which bears the date of A.D. 1620. The Register dates from the year 1553, the first year of the reign of Queen Mary. The living is a Vicarage in the patronage of the Lord Bishop of the Diocese, a portion of the ancient foundation of the Abbey of Ely.

RICHARD DEVEREUX JONES,  
St. Mary's Vicarage, Wisbech.

51.—**Records of Fenland Marriages.**—The following records of Fenland marriages are collected from old newspapers. The dates refer to the issue of the newspapers.

1796.

- Jan. 22 At St. Bees, Cumberland—John Walker, of Deeping St. James, to Miss Wake, of Whitehaven.
- Jan. 22 At Ely—Lieut. Brown of the Notts. Militia to C. Marshall, youngest daughter of Mr. W. Marshall.
- Feb. 5 At Crowland—John Ullett, an eminent farmer and grazier in Deeping Fen, to Sarah Cowling, third daughter of William Cowling, of Crowland.
- Feb. 12 At Boston—W<sup>m</sup>. Robinson, Esq.,\* to Miss Goodwin, both of Boston.
- Feb. 12 At Lynn—William Chapman, merchant, to Miss Emerson, both of Boston.
- Feb. 12 The Rev. Bartholomew Gee, of Coningsby, to Miss Flowers, of Boston.
- Feb. 12 At Mareham-le-Fen, co. Lincoln—John Tomlinson, to Mrs. Tasker, landlady at the "Chequer" Inn, at Mareham-le-Fen.
- Feb. 12 At Sculcoates—The Rev. Mr. Edwards, of Lynn, to Miss Pead, daughter of the late Benj<sup>m</sup>. Pead, Esq., of Hull.
- Feb. 19 At St. Martin's, Stamford—Mr. Chapman, scrivener, of Wisbech, to Mrs. Newzam, late of Peterborough.
- Feb. 19 At Heckington, co. Lincoln—W. Smith, of Garwick, in that parish, to Miss Stephenson, only daughter of Mr. John Stephenson, of Swineshead Lodge.
- Mar. 4 At Bennington, near Boston—W. Overton, draper and grocer, to Miss E. Procter, both of Bennington.
- Mar. 4 Mr. Robert Martin, of Great Distaff Lane, London, to Miss Bycroft, of Boston.
- Mar. 11 At Stanground, Hunts.—Mr. Pears, grazier, of Toncham, near Thorney, to Miss Taylor, of Peterborough.

\* Alderman William Robinson, of Boston, died Aug. 6, 1801.



- Mar. 11 Mr. Hart, attorney at law, of Bourn, co. Lincoln, to Miss Worrall, of Bourn.
- Mar. 24 At Ely—Rev. James Saunders, B.D., Fellow of Queen's College, Cambridge, and Rector of Sawtry Moigne, Huntingdonshire, to Miss Attenborough, of Ely.
- April 8 At Boston—Charles Carter, of Deeping Fen, Lincs., to Miss Layton, of Boston.
- April 15 Thomas Clarke, of Wiggan, to Miss Hewit, of Colne, Hunts.
- April 15 At Bourn—John Swift, to Elizabeth Swift, of Market Deeping, Lincs.
- April 22 Mr. Verdun, attorney at law, at Long Sutton, to Miss Maulkinson, daughter of Mr. Maulkinson, an eminent farmer and grazier, of Sutton Marsh.
- April 22 Mr. S. Garner, farrier, of Wisbech, to Elizabeth Storr, third daughter of Mr. Samuel Storr, painter, of Wisbech.
- April 29 French Johnson, to Miss Toon, both of Boston.
- April 29 At Peakirk, Norths.—Mr. Hemment, grazier, of Thorney Fen, to Mrs. Fairchild, relict of Mr. Fairchild, of Deeping Fen.
- May 13 At Paston, near Peterborough—William Pank, a capital grazier, of Borough Fen, to Esther Shelstone, of the same place.
- May 13 Thomas Riley, draper, of Lynn, to Miss Grant, of Great Glenn, Leicestershire.
- May 27 Mr. Aveling, surgeon, to Mrs. Leighton, both of Whittlesey, Cambs.
- May 27 The Rev. Mr. Banks,\* of Boston, to Miss Hunnings, and daughter of Butter Hunnings, Esq., † Mayor of Lincoln.
- June 10 At Boston—Chevalier d'Estimauville, a Canadian gentleman, to Miss Blyth, niece to J. Betts, Esq.
- June 17 At Yaxley, Hunts.—Mr. Smith, of London, to Miss Chamberlin, of Yaxley.

\* In 1809 the Rev. John Banks, B.D., F.S.A., head master of Boston Grammar School, was presented to Braitoft Rectory.

† Butter Hunnings, an alderman of Lincoln, and mayor for 1796, died on March 8, 1804, at Boston.

- June 17 Mr. Thompson, of Carlby, Lincs., to Miss Cunningham, of Stibbington, Hunts.
- June 17 Mr. Turner, watchmaker, to Miss Parker, daughter of Mr. Parker, tea dealer, both of Lynn.
- June 24 At Baston, Lincs.—William Oates, aged 79, widower, to Ann Oldgate, of Baston, aged 77, widow.
- June 24 At Navenby, near Lincoln—Mr. Valentine Ingram, of Surfleet Marsh, near Spalding, to Mary Rollett, youngest daughter of Mr. Rollett, of the former place.
- July 1 Mr. George Moore, of the Post Office, Boston, to Mrs. White, of Boston.
- July 8 Mr. Charles Slow, of Huntingdon, to Miss Stona, only daughter of William Stona, Esq., of the same place.
- July 8 Mr. Watson, baker, of Downham, to Miss Mary Richmond, of Ely.
- July 15 Mr. Sisson, jun., of Barholm, to Miss Gibbs, of West Deeping.
- July 22 At Gretna Green—Sampson Barber,\* of Willow Hall, near Peterborough, to Miss Henderson, of Shap, Westmorland.
- July 22 At Croft, near Wainfleet—John Troutbell, of Leake, officer of excise, to Susanna Wright, of the above-mentioned place.
- July 22 By special licence, at Lambeth Palace, by the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Lord Bishop of Peterborough,† to Miss Vyse, sister to General Vyse.
- July 22 At Huntingdon—Mr. James Flower, of Huntingdon, merchant, to Miss Rowe, daughter of Mr. John Rowe, of Huntingdon.
- July 29 Mr. Turtle, of St. Martin's, Stamford, to Miss Rickett, of Lolham.

\* See *Fenland Notes and Queries*, p. 35, Part I, Vol. I.

† Spencer Madan was Bishop of Peterborough from 1794 to 1813. On Feb. 16th, 1830, there died at his house in the Close, Lichfield, aged 67. William Charles Madan, a Colonel in the Army, 7th and 37th Regiments. He was the youngest son of Dr. Spencer Madan, Lord Bishop of Peterborough, and Lady Charlotte, second daughter of Charles, Earl of Cornwallis.

- Aug. 5 James Digby, Esq.,\* of Bourn, Lincs., to Miss Hyde, daughter of the Rev. Mr. Hyde,† of Bourn.‡
- Aug. 5 Mr. Thos. Nickelson, tailor and woollen draper, Lynn, to Miss Middleton, daughter of Mr. J. Middleton, pilot master, of Lynn.
- Aug. 26 At Polebrook, Norths.—Mr. Donard Albin, printer, of Spalding, (one of the Spalding troop of Loyal Lincolnshire Yeoman Cavalry), to Miss R. Seward, of Polebrook.
- Aug. 26 At Kirkby—Mr. William Goodson, plumber and glazier, of Sleaford, to Mary Harmston, of Kirkby.
- Aug. 26 At Polebrook, Norths.—Mr. Richard Massam, of Holland Fen, to Miss Hunt, of Polebrook.
- Aug. 26 The Rev. Henry Clarke, to Miss Serecold, both of Peterborough.
- Sep. 9 At Whaplode—Mr. Thompson, innholder, to Elizabeth Fisher, of Whaplode.
- Oct. 7 Mr. Lawrence, attorney at law, of Lynn, to Miss Gray, of Gaywood.
- Oct. 7 Mr. James Weatherby, of London, to Miss Sophia Thorpe, of Newmarket.
- Oct. 14 Mr. N. T. Darwin, of Bucklersbury, London, to Miss Wheldale, of Boston.

\* In "Obituary and Records for the counties of Lincoln, Rutland, and Northampton," by Justin Simpson, it is stated, p. 115, that Mr. James Digby, of Red Hall, Bourn, died unmarried at the age of 77, on August 14, 1811. He left property said to be worth £200,000, which was inherited by his two sisters, Mary, the wife of John Fowell, Esq., of Blackhall, Devon, and Henrietta, married to George Pauncefort, Esq. The son of the elder co-heir, the Rev. John Digby Fowell, of Blackhall, became, on the death of his uncle, the representative of this branch of the family of Digby, and died in 1828, leaving three sons and two daughters. James Digby was the last male heir of the ancient family of Digby, of South Luffenham, Rutland, descended from Sir John Digby, of Eye Kettleby, Leicestershire. The arms of Digby are: az., a fleur de lis, arg. Crest: an ostrich, holding in the beak a horseshoe, or. Motto: Deus non fortuna.

† The Rev. Humphrey Hyde, rector of Dowsby, and vicar of Bourne Lincs., died Jan. 18, 1807. The family of Hyde had been established at Dowsby for upwards of two centuries.

‡ The announcement of this marriage was published in the *Stamford Mercury* of Aug. 5, 1796, and does not appear to have been subsequently contradicted. The date is given as "yesterday se'night" but the "place" where the marriage took place is not mentioned.

- Oct. 14 At Kings Lynn—Blencowe, Esq., to Miss Everard, eldest daughter of Edward Everard, sen., Esq., alderman of that borough.
- Oct. 28 At St. John's, Peterborough—Captain Orange, of the 86th regiment, to Miss E. B. Phillipson.
- Nov. 4 Mr. Brown, surgeon, of Thorney, to Miss M. Facon, of Borough Fen.
- Nov. 11 At Sleaford—Mr. R. Thornill, printer and bookseller, to Miss Tindale, both of Sleaford.
- Nov. 25 At Boston—Mr. Meggitt, to Miss Vance.
- Nov. 25 At Baldock—Mr. John Edwards, jun., a member of the corporation of Lynn, to Miss Mary Eliza Martin, a relative of the late Richard Edwards, Esq., of Arlsey, in Bedfordshire.
- Nov. 25 Captain Robert Thompson, of the Fountain, Lynn, to Miss Dickerson, of South Lynn.
- Dec. 16 Mr. Preston, of Sleaford, to Miss Mowbray, of Grantham.
- Dec. 23 Mr. Lee, late master of the "Windmill" Inn, Stamford, to Mrs. Thistleton, of Peterborough.
- Dec. 30 At Harmston, William King, Esq., of Merton, Lincs., to Miss Hopkinson, of Peterborough. A young lady with a handsome fortune, and possessed of every amiable qualification to render the married state completely happy. A very great concourse of people attended at the church to witness the ceremony.

*(To be continued.)*

52.—**Herod's Coat at Holbeach.**—(No. 3).—Your correspondent may not be aware that the Miracle Play of the Slaughter of the Innocents, performed usually on Candlemas Day, embraced as one of the principal actors therein "Herod," and probably the remnant sold was the vestment "Herod" appeared in by his then representative. The play entitled "Candlemas Day, or the Killing of the Children of Israel," was written by one John Parfre, and is preserved in the Digby MSS. in the Bodleian Library, Oxford. It bears the date 1512. King

Herod is the chief character, and the others are Syemon (as the Bysshop), Joseph, Maria, and Anna (Prophetess), with Virgins, Knights, and Angels. I find also in the Miracle Plays of Coventry, and in the Guild Expenses, this item under the date 1490):—

Md. payd to the players for Corpus Xisti daye.

Itm: to Heroude . . . . . iij<sup>s</sup> iiij<sup>d</sup>.

“The Killing of the Innocents” was one of the plays acted by the “Goldsmiths,” or Guild of Goldsmiths, yearly, in the City of Chester, between Whit Monday and Whit Wednesday, in each year annually until A.D. 1577.

“Magnus Herodes,” or “Great Herod,” was one of the Plays or Mysteries mentioned in the celebrated collection known as the Townsley Mysteries.

CHARLES GOLDING, Colchester.

The “stuffe” sold from Holbeach church in 1543 formed the accessories used in Mystery or Miracle Plays, founded upon events recorded in sacred writ, and which were in Mediæval times acted in Churches. The “Creation of the World,” “Slaying of the Innocents” (which accounts for the presence of Herod’s coat), and numerous other scenes were principally enacted by the various guilds, in which as *dramatis personæ* the Apostles, Holy Angels, etc., would take part.

J. S.

Mr. FICKLING, B.A., of St. Peter’s College, Peterborough, has also furnished a similar reply.

53.—**The Suppression of Croyland Abbey.**—In Vol. 261 of “Miscellaneous Books, Augmentation Office,” is the following entry of local interest:—

“Payments by warraunts of the Counsaill—First payed the xxix<sup>th</sup> daye of Marche anno xxxij h viij (1541) to Willm. Sympson xl<sup>o</sup> for his travayle attendaunce and charge taken given and susteyned in for and abowte the profe and tryall of a certyn informacon made and geven by the said willm. for ymbeselling and conveying of certeyne goods by the late abbot of Crowland according to a warraunt of the Counsaill in that behalf made as by the same more playnly apperyth.” In a M.S. list of Crown

pensioners of dissolved Conventual houses and Chantries payable at Michmas. 2 & 3 P & M (1555) I find one Willm. Sympesunne a late inmate of Croyland, was in receipt of an annual pension of  $53/4$ , perhaps the same W. S. who "rounded" upon his superior. Some 16 years after the suppression of the conventual establishments, two kindred society's, Chantries and Guilds, shared a similar fate, judging from inventories taken a year or two before their suppression. It appears that the custodians of the church property at that time did all they could to preserve it from falling into the hands of the spoiler. Within a year or two the moveable property, plate, rapidly vanished, and when the Royal Commissioners took inventory, only little remained to reach the royal jewel house. The Commissioners appointed by royal authority for the county of Lincoln make no mention of Croyland, so probably they were considered as part and parcel of the revenues of the Abbey, and of course confiscated with its temporalities. One John Dighton, of Crowland, by will dated 18 Jan. 1507-8, and proved in London, 9 Nov. 1508, bequeathed to the high altar of the parish church of Crowland, "for tithes forgotten, 12d. ; the Fraternity of St. John Baptist founded in the said church, 12d. ; fraternities of the Holy Trinity and Corpus Christi, ea. 12d. ; and to the Plough light founded in the said church of Crowland, 4d. To the head (or mother) church of Lincoln, 4d. To a priest to sing for my soul, Margaret my wifes & all Christian souls in Crowland church for a whole year, £5. I will that my executor cause to be said & sung for my soul & souls above said a trentall of St. Gregories masses as soon as it may be goodly done after my dec., the priest to have 10s. For an anniversary to be kept for my soul, Margaret my wifes, & all Christian souls in the parish church of Crowland on the day of my dec. by the space of 20 years, to distribute yearly 3s. 4d. Residue of goods to Henry D. priest, my son sole exor" & who proved the will."

In my next paper I will give you the will of the last Abbot of Croyland.

JUSTIN SIMPSON, Stamford.

**54.—The Speechley and Ground Families.**—The following Table of descent of the family of Mr. Edward Ground, of the North Bank, Whittlesey, in 1815, was taken from an inscription on a silver cup in Mr. Ground's possession at that date:—

Alice Speechley, widow of John Speechley, ob. 1658.

Edward Speechley, son of the said Alice and John, ob. 1701.

Edward Speechley, son of the said Edward, ob. 1743.

Alice, daughter of the last mentioned Edwd. Speechley, married Henry Clarke, ob. 1775.

Amey Ground, daughter of the said Alice Clarke, ob. 1786.

Edwd. Ground, son of the above named Amey Ground, living in 1819.

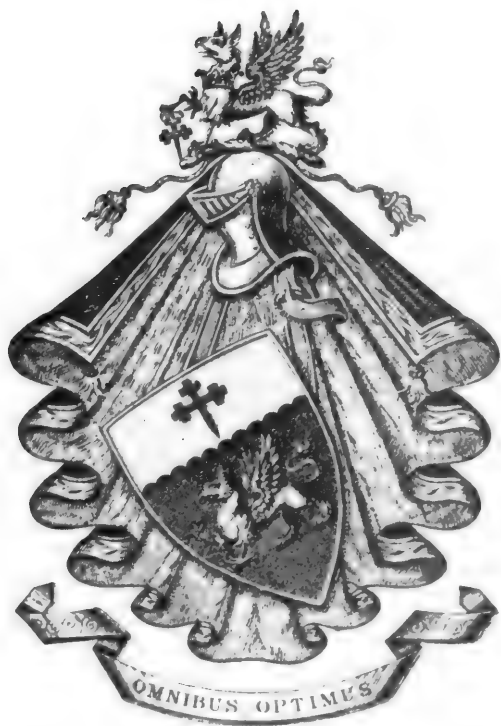
**55.—Characteristic Features of Fen History.**—Originally the Fens, stretching for some 70 miles from north to south, and at the widest 40 miles in breadth, or 680,000 acres, flourished as primæval forests (Skertchley of the Geological Survey, asserts) of oak, elm, birch, firs, yews, and willows; in fact, was as Dugdale says:—A great level of firm dry land, and not annoyed with any extraordinary inundation from the sea or stagnation of the fresh waters. He endeavours to manifest this, although the strangeness is apparent, by giving instances of great oak trees being found when the great Cuts were made, some not severed from the roots remaining fixed in firm earth below the Moor. In Marshland, near Magdalen Bridge there was discovered, at 17 feet deep, furze, nut bushes, and perfect nuts, imbedded between the firm earth and the silt, which had been brought up by the inundation of the sea. If it was inundated by the sea, the question arises, "How did it become overflowed by the sea?" Dugdale tries to solve this problem. He takes it for granted that the Fens were once solid land, and I may mention that the Fens are surrounded by comparative highland, pretty nearly in the shape of a horseshoe. How did it then become a prodigious Fen? How did the ocean break in with such force as to uproot the great oaks and firs, and cover the whole level to such an extraordinary depth? If the ocean had not been in, how could Sir Robert Cotton, Bart., find the skeleton of a large sea fish, near 20 feet long, lying in perfect silt, more than 6 feet below the superficies of the ground, and as much above the present level of the Fens, when he was

making some drainage improvements in Huntingdonshire. But when and by what means that violent breach and inundation of the sea was first made into the country, Dugdale is not able to positively affirm, therefore he must take leave to deliver his conjecture therein from the most rational probability, which is, that it was by some great earthquake, for that such dreadful accidents have occasioned the like we have unquestionable testimony. However, he does not support his conjecture very much by mentioning the encroachments and the receding of the sea, which is taking place at the present moment in many places, as at Skegness, Cromer, Lyme, Romney, Southport, etc. Perhaps a more rational explanation would be this. Those who have been to Hunstanton, in Norfolk, will remember Hunstanton Ness, or the high white cliffs. Geologists tell us that this chalk ridge extended to the Lincolnshire coast, and within this ridge was a plain of soft blue clay, and the sea beating upon the chalk barrier, and aided by the rivers, broke through the chalk and scoured out the clay, not all, nor smoothly, but leaving banks here and there, and then a long struggle ensued between sea, land, air, frost and rain; in fact, every disintegrating agent assembled, and the elements had it for their battle ground for many long ages. Helping all this, there may have been subsidences and slight oscillations of the land itself. Again, when we remember that the country is a low plain, varying from five to twenty feet above the Ordnance datum or mean tidal level, and much of it below high water level, and would be overflowed daily but for the erection of great banks, also that the water from the surrounding country,  $4\frac{1}{2}$  times the area of the Fens, all had to pass through it, I opine that the silt, the alluvium, and the ooze would deposit in the Fen basin, the rivers would become choked up, settle into Lakes and Meres, and wander by numerous and shifting channels to the sea. Then commenced the growth of a luxuriant vegetation in fresh water, which we dig to-day as peat, and the more elevated land or islands, which varied from 20 to 80 feet above mean tide level, became overgrown with reeds, alders and osiers, which were haunted by wild fowl in-

*(To be continued).*







ARMS OF THE AVELING FAMILY AT WHITLESEY

numerable. Vegetation flourished and decayed, suspended matter still kept pouring down from the high country, and was deposited, until, in the 16th century, the Fens were spoken of as an inland sea in winter, and a noxious swamp in summer; and terribly hard must life have been in the winter, when the frost stopped the boats and was not sufficient for the weight of man. The first attempt at reclamation is attributed to the Romans, and there can be little doubt that the Romans threw up the old Sea Bank, which originally was 150 miles in length. They also made the Carr Dyke or Catchwater Drain from the Nene to the Witham, and old Podyke in Marshland Fen. Next, in 1115, Richard de Rollus reclaimed part of Deeping Fen, by shutting out the Welland by a strong embankment. Richard de Rollus married the daughter and heiress of Hugh Evermure, Lord of Bourne and Deeping, who had married Torfrida, the daughter of Hereward Leofricsson, who was the son of the famous Leofric, Earl of Mercia, and the equally famous Lady Godiva. The monks of the monasteries founded on the islands are credited as giving special attention to the drainage of their own domains, but nothing very substantial was done until after the great and most destructive floods of 1607. James I., hearing of the great and frequent devastation made this royal declaration, that "for the honour of his kingdom, he would not any longer suffer these countries to be abandoned to the will of the waters, nor to let them lie waste and unprofitable; and that if no one else would undertake their drainage, he himself would become their undertaker." So in 1609 the first district Act for Fen Drainage was passed, and Lord Chief Justice Popham and a company of Londoners commenced, but were not successful. Their works remain in Londoners' Lode and Popham's Eau. For their trouble they were to receive two-thirds of the reclaimed land. After this there were loud calls for a skilled undertaker, or engineer, but England had none; and in their dilemma they called to their aid Cornelius Vermuyden, the celebrated Dutch Drainage Engineer. This was in 1629, or 20 years after the first Act was passed. A contract was made between him and the Commissioners of Sewers, at Kings Lynn, he undertaking to find

all requisite funds, to drain the Level according to a plan submitted by him, on condition that 95,000 acres of the reclaimed land should be granted to him as a recompense. But great was the outcry against this contract with a foreigner, one jealous John Bull exclaiming—"What, is the old activitie and abilities of the English nation grown now soe dull and insufficient, that we must pray in ayde of our neighbours to improve our own demaynes?" So the contract was abrogated before many months. After this, Francis, Earl of Bedford was induced to take the head of affairs, and he engaged the services of Vermuyden, and then began earnestly the drainage of the Bedford Level, divided into the North, Middle, and South Levels. Very great difficulties were encountered from the very first, principally from the want of funds, the hostility of the Fen-men, (who, with the disappearance of the water, saw that they could neither fish, snare, nor shoot), and even the popular press of the day hurled its darts against the great undertaking. Six or eight years afterwards, the works being in full progress, the great discontent among the Fen natives became fanned into a fierce flame by the member for Huntingdon, Oliver Cromwell, a man who from obscurity desired to gain influence in the Parliamentary party of the Fen country. He went about from village to village, and from meeting to meeting, even questioning the character of the improvement itself, and soon became the most popular man in the district, and was saluted as "Lord of the Fens." Many great riots occurred at this period, the works suffering very extensively; the embankments were cut through, and the Drains dammed up, by which the work of many years was rendered void. Then raged the civil war, and the Fen country became in a worse state than before. The works began again about 1650, everything being at its very lowest ebb. Cheaper labour was required, and a thousand Scotch prisoners taken at Dunbar were made to work at the Drainage; also five hundred prisoners taken by Blake over Van Tromp rendered valuable services. At length the works were declared finished, and the Lords Commissioners of Adjudication made their Official inspection for Parliament. They sailed upon the new rivers, surveyed the

new cause and sluices, and returned to Ely, where Sir Cornelius Vermuyden read to them a discourse descriptive of the work they had inspected, in which he said there were then sown with wheat and other grain 40,000 acres. Mills, first worked by horse power were introduced in 1678, and it was not until after 1726 that the wind was utilised to draw the water from the dyke to the drain, and from the drain to the river; but for some years past steam has been taking the place of wind, and now the luxuriant vegetation of the water is changed for that of the best arable land in the kingdom.

GEORGE HUGHES, Horwich, Bolton.

**56.—Fenland Superstitions.**—When taking up the foundations of an old house in the Fen, we found beneath the hearth-stone a low flat-bottomed glass bottle. The side was broken by the tool of the workman. Inside was a number of pins stuck into a dark substance. I have heard of other bottles, glass and stone, (probably of Dutch manufacture) being found in similar positions. It has been said they were intended as a charm to keep evil spirits away, and that the pins were stuck into the heart of a pigeon for that purpose. Some reader of *Fenland Notes and Queries* may perhaps be able to throw some light on the matter. I have seen horse-shoes nailed to the threshold of the door, which are said to have been for the same purpose. The horse-shoe in our day is said to be a token of good luck: some persons will not pass one on the road without picking it up, and I have heard of collections being made in this way. There is still a great deal of superstition in the Fenland even among educated persons, more than many would imagine; some believe in *lucky* and *unlucky* days; others that if by chance 13 sit down to dinner at the same table, one will die before the year is out. S.E.

**57.—The St. Ives Mercury.**—The first number of the *Northampton Mercury* was published on the 2nd May, 1720, but what is most remarkable is that the then public is informed that what the paper will be may be judged by the *St. Ives Mercury* of the two preceding weeks. That it was printed here is conclusive from

its reference to the printing-office in Huntingdonshire. So that it is clear St. Ives had its own newspaper 169 years ago, at a time when there was scarcely, perhaps, a dozen journals in all England. St. Ives must have been a place of importance in the early years of the reign of the first George. It evidently ranked with Northampton and Reading, as when a paper was started later at the last named place—this was also a *Mercury*—St. Ives was quoted as a most worthy pattern to follow, and a conclusive argument in favour of a Reading paper, seeing that St. Ives in Hunts. had got one. It is probable that the Messrs. Raikes and Dacey were proprietors of the *St. Ives Mercury*. After they dissolved business, through the heavy fine of Sir E. Lawrence, Mr. Dacey went to reside at Northampton, and it may be that he continued the paper there under the new title of the *Northampton Mercury*. The dates given above agree in time, and seem to confirm this suggestion.

HERBERT E. NORRIS.

58.—“**Lincolnshire Tales.**”—A second volume of *Lincolnshire Dialect Tales and Stories*, by Miss Mabel Peacock, second daughter of Edward Peacock, F.S.A., of Bottesford Manor, Brigg, is now being printed by her publishers—Geo. Jackson and Son, Brigg. Miss Peacock’s previous book, published two or three years ago, met with extraordinary success, and we understand the new work will be even more entertaining and interesting than its predecessor.

59.—“**Wisbech Church Tower.**”—A correspondent writes thus concerning the perpendicular tower of the parish church of Wisbech St. Peter, which is practically detached from the main structure in mixed styles and of much earlier date :—

“The tower is a massive structure, it is much adorned on every side, especially towards the top, with coats of arms exceedingly well carved. At the north side of the steeple, towards the summit, are these devices :—In the middle, the royal arms of England and France on a large shield, supported by an angel under a canopy. Above this may be seen a text  $\mathcal{T}$  and a text  $\mathfrak{H}$ , crowned, and at the bottom corner of the upper storey, under

the **T**, the arms of the See of Canterbury. \***T** may possibly be the initial of Thomas Goodrich, one of the revisers of the authorised version of the New Testament, and probably the Bishop of Ely at the time the tower was completed; whilst **M** undoubtedly is the initial of the surname of Archbishop Morton, created Cardinal in 1493, who was some time Bishop of Ely, and builder of the second castle at Wisbech. The device in a corresponding position beneath the **M** is also mitred, and has a coat of arms quarterly, considered to be Cardinal Morton's. On the ridge below the window are seven curious shields. Of these, the first bears the arms of France and England; the nature of the second is uncertain; the third device is the Cross Keys, the emblem of St. Peter; the fourth shield bears the arms of the See of Ely, supported by an angel; the character of the sixth device is uncertain; whilst the seventh shield bears the arms of the See of Ely impaling those of Cardinal Morton, mitred; beneath these, in the corners of the arch of the belfry door, are two other shields, the first, keys in saltier (the arms of St. Peter), and the second, swords in saltier (the arms of St. Paul). The other sides of the tower bear devices of an equally interesting character; the buttresses of the tower are very substantial; whilst the pinnacles at the four corners of the summit, the balustrading, together with the intermediate pinnacles therein, and the central dwarf spire, are all both interesting and curious. It is probable that the tower was commenced *circa* 1520, at which time Nicholas West was Bishop of Ely, and completed *circa* 1538, during the episcopate of Thomas Goodrich, who subsequently became Lord Chancellor of England.”

“HEREWARD.”

**60.—Manea in 1748.**—A pamphlet of 23 pages, written and

\* It has been objected that the theory concerning the signification of these initial letters is unsound, on the ground that it is unusual to find one referring to a Christian name of an individual and the other to the surname of someone else; but I would remark that there are many quaint instances of such “sermons in stones.” At any rate the first letter is more like T than J, or I might be inclined to hold to the opinion that the initials were both those of Cardinal John Morton, whose name will be perpetuated in the Fens by the well-known “Morton's Leam.”

published in 1748 by Thomas Neale, M.A., rector of the parish, is thus headed:—"The ruinous state of the parish of Manea, in the Isle of Ely, with the causes and remedy of it humbly represented in a letter, To Matt. Robinson Morris, Esq., Lord of the Manor of Coveney with Manea."

The writer of the pamphlet begins by quoting a passage from Dugdale, page 415, where, speaking of King Charles I., he says, "And moreover to enrich these countries, by several new plantations and diverse ample privileges; amongst which his royal intentions, that of the building of an eminent town in the midst of the level, at a little village called Manea, and to have called it Charlemont, was one; the design whereof he drew himself, intending to have made a navigable stream from thence to the river Ouse." Mr. Neale says, "There is an artificial square mount, at this day, not far from the chapel, which, so far as I can learn from tradition, was thrown up by his Majesty's order." I think probably tradition was right, as this pamphlet was written not much more than 100 years after King Charles' death; I have always known it as Charley Mount. It is not so large as it used to be, having been partially thrown down, but is now a considerable mound. The writer of the pamphlet then goes on to give three reasons, or causes, for this ruinous state of the parish. Firstly, the great number of mills erected of late years in the Middle Level. He says, "there are now no less than two hundred and fifty in the Middle Level. In Whittlesey parish only, I was told by some of the principal inhabitants there are more than fifty mills, and there are, I believe, as many in Donnington (query Doddington) with its members. I myself, riding very lately from Ramsey to Holme, about six miles across the Fens, counted forty in my view; there are between Ramsey and Old Bedford Bank, and upon the forty-feet, sixteen-feet, and twenty-feet, and to Salter's Load in Well parish (surrounding Manea), fifty-seven. A great number of these mills throw their water directly upon Manea. This is the first cause of the ruinous state of Manea. Secondly, a large tunnel, above five feet wide and more than three deep, was laid down in 1712 under the forty-feet, both bank and drain.



The visible design of this bank was to defend the lower parts of the level from the waters of the upper parts ; but by this tunnel the waters of a large tract of land above us (near ten thousand acres) have been continually poured into the twenty-feet, the only drain that Manea has to carry off its waters. And a third cause is the decay of the general outfall of the Ouse since Denver Sluice fell. Of this, I have many witnesses to produce, as well as my own experience. I have heard ancient people say, that if Manea heretofore were drowned two feet deep in February by a breach of banks, for it was never drowned otherwise, they could plow and sow those lands with oats that same year ; but now it is too well known, if it be drowned but one foot deep at that time, it can scarce be got dry all that summer. There is a person now living in Manea who remembers the Old Bedford Bank breaking opposite to that parish about forty-five years ago, but a fortnight before Lady-day, and laying the Fen lands of it a considerable depth under water ; and yet he assisted in plowing and sowing oats in the lower parts of it that same year : this could be owing to nothing else but the goodness of the outfall at that time. These are the evident and effectual causes which have by degrees reduced the lands, and in consequence of that, the inhabitants of Manea, to a low estate indeed, from keeping, as I have known them, between two and three thousand sheep, to not being able to winter three hundred without much trouble and difficulty ; from some of the worst lands in the parish producing, without much hazard, fifteen or sixteen comb (and I have been assured sometimes a last) of oats an acre, to not being capable of being plowed at all ; from every acre in the parish being occupied, to having a third part unlet ; from being the best place except one (Thorney) that Mr. Fortrey knew of in the Fens for a farmer to thrive in, as he told me above thirty years ago, to the greatest part being almost reduced to beggary ; from being called rich Manea, as I have heard ancient tradesmen of Ely say (when I first went to that school in 1708), to being reckoned the poorest in the level ; from the tythes amounting to a hundred pounds per annum (exclusive of Coveney) as my predecessor Mr. Austin informed me, to their being worth

(when the curate, taxes, and repairs are paid) scarce the trouble of collecting; from my paternal estate, which I am still possessed of, being worth about one hundred and thirty pounds per annum (not estimating a corn mill, and the best commonable house in the parish lately burnt) to its letting this present year under fifty pounds, and likely to fall." In one place, describing the former prosperity of Manea, he says, "Two hundred acres called Bond's Farm, in my memory had a good house upon it, and one Edward Newborn, as I am well informed who lived in it, got a thousand pounds upon it; and when he died, above sixty years ago, twenty of his milched cows were sold for one hundred pounds. As to the thousand acres adjoining, called Fifties, I have many living witnesses to produce who not only remember many crops of oats and coleseed, but good wheat also growing in them; beast fed with the hay that grew upon them; and store wethers kept upon and bought out of them at eighteen pounds per score, and ewes at fifteen pounds; but now, so miserably are these adventurers' lands reduced in value and goodness, that I have lately heard some of the most sensible farmers in that parish and neighbourhood say with asseverations, 'that if they might have the whole without price, and only be bound to pay the draining tax for twenty-one years, (supposing them to be exposed as they now are) they would absolutely refuse the offer.'" The remedy suggested by Mr. Neale was to get a Drainage Act and erect mills as the rest of the Level had done. Doubtless by his efforts this was effected, as I see in the Order Book of the Drainage Commissioners this entry:—"May 21, 1751, Ordered that Mr. Neale be allowed 20 guineas for his expenses relative to this Act, and that the thanks of the Board be likewise given him for his extraordinary care and trouble in that affair." Referring to the Order Book, I find the first order at the first meeting of the Commissioners was this:—"May 17, 1748, Ordered that each Commissioner at this and all subsequent meetings shall bear his own expence." But alas for the economic intentions of these self-denying men. On August 3rd, 1749, it was ordered "that such Commissioners as shall attend this or any subsequent meeting shall have one shilling allowed him

for his attendance at every such meeting." I believe now in these degenerate days the Commissioners of most districts have a good feed at their annual meetings.

WILLIAM WILES GREEN, Manea.

**61.—Monumental Inscriptions in St. Margaret's Church, Lynn:—**

**1.—UNDER THE SOUTH-WEST TOWER.**

hic iacet adam de walsokne | quondam burgens lenī qui  
obiit quinto die mensis iunii anno dñi millesimo tricentesimo |  
quadragesimo nono et margareta uxor | eius in cley nata quorum  
anime per dei misericordiam in pace requie | cants amen.×

cum fex cum limus cum            res vilisima sumus  
unde superbimus ad                terram terra redimus.

[In Lombardic letters, the first inscription marginal. The second under the feet of the effigies on this well known Flemish brass, now placed on a low platform under the South-West Tower.]

**2.—NEXT LAST.**

× orate pro animabus roberti braunche leticie et margare | te  
uxorum eius et pro omnibus quibus tenentur qui quidem robertus  
obii xv die octobris anno domini M<sup>o</sup>CC<sup>o</sup>C | LXIII anime eorum per  
misericordiam dei in pace requi | escant amen.

[Marginal, in Lombardic letters, on the Flemish brass of Brannche, on which is represented the "Peacock Feast."]

**3.—CHANCEL FLOOR.**

Hic iacet corpvs Iohānis Atkin | Aldermani viri gravissimi  
prachonesti reiq̄ huius burgi publicæ admodum studiosi cuius  
Maioratum A<sup>o</sup>. rrs Iacobi 5<sup>o</sup>. & 13<sup>o</sup>. Honorifice ac pie gessit E  
Iohanna uxore eius unica | duodecim amoris sui pigrora suscitavit  
quorum in vivis tantūmodo sunt novem | gulielmus natu primus  
thomas Iohānes sethevs anna clementia. Iohāna frideswitha  
& Margeria vixit A<sup>o</sup>. 68 faeliciter. 15. die Septembris A<sup>o</sup> Domini  
1617. in Chōr obdormivit | [Marginal.]

Insignis pietate viri, si funera flere.

Convenit, Atkinnus tunc lachrymandus obit

Heu lachrymandus obit nostri non illius ergo  
 Nos orbos terræ, illumastra suprema tennet  
 Prætoris burgi Lennæ ois numere functus  
 Oppetiit fælix appetiitque Deum  
 Addere plura vetat plangens respublica Lennæ  
 Nam renovata piget damna videre sua.

[Brass, IN CAPITALS, with merchant's mark.]

4.—CHANCEL FLOOR.

Sta Viator :

Dic mihi, quod prosunt vires juvenilis & ardor.  
 Ars, decor ingenium Cespite tecta iacent.  
 Nil, nisi quod de te caveas, tibi restat, & ores,  
 Sic, cum ventura est mors tibi, salvus eris. [Capitals.]

Hic deponitur Corpus Franci parlett genōsi optime  
 spei adolescentis, qui, extremis agens, Voluit in  
 exequias suas fieri Concionem populo, textu ex hoc.

Reioyce, O, yong man, in thy youth, & lett thy | hart cheere thee  
 in thy dayes of thy youth, and | walke in y<sup>e</sup> wayes of thine heart, &  
 in y<sup>e</sup> sight of | thine eyes : But know that for all these things |  
 God will bring thee to judgement : Eccles : 11 : 9.

Obijt 29<sup>o</sup> May : 1628. Ætat Suae 21.

Fra : Parlett Ar. P. M P. [Capitals.]

[Brass, with arms (on a shield)—a parrot, a label for difference ;  
 and motto (on a scroll)—“ Penses puis parles.”]

5.—BRASS, LOOSE IN VESTRY.

Thomas Parlet genēr : filius Francisei Parlet | Armigeri huius  
 Burgi Recordatoris natu mini- | mus tandem unicus, a re  
 mercatoria ad ludum | literarium reversus admirandæ pietatis &  
 cha- | ritatis adolescens, quicquid terræ habuit hic | deposuit A<sup>o</sup>  
 Ætatis suae xvij, & salutis humanæ | CIODIXXXII.

Debitor iste minor iustus, sua debita solvit  
 Creditor omnipotens solverat illa prius  
 Debita vis solvas (Hospes) cum solveris ipse  
 Vivas ipse Deo, Solvet & illa Deus.

## 6.—EAST WALL OF NORTH CHAPEL.

D E O | opt<sup>o</sup> Max : Sacrū | In xpo spem | Resurgendi beatam  
 expectat | MARGARETA | Q : F : | Filia pijss<sup>a</sup>, uxor fideliss<sup>a</sup>,  
 parens | indulgentiss<sup>a</sup> soror amantiss<sup>a</sup> | materfamilias providentiss<sup>a</sup>,  
 pauperibus | opitulantiss<sup>a</sup>, et omnibus benevolentiss<sup>a</sup>, | diem suum  
 in clauso paschæ clausit extremū | A<sup>o</sup>; Sal : CIODCXXXIX | Cuius  
 rediuvæ Fra : Parlet Ar : huius | burgi Recordator consortis  
 suæ | per XXXIV annos, cui peperit filios, | Francūm, Edrūm,  
 Ricūm, Thomam, | Filias Aliciam, Thomasinam, | Honoram,  
 Annam, Joannam, | Margaretam et Margaretam. |  
 hic | posuit memoriæ | Margarita fuit terris cum coniuge iuncta |  
 et nunc in cælis splendida gemma micat  
 Cætera, si nescis Quæras ; valeasq viator  
 Atq pie vivas, ut moriare pie.

[Arms : a parrot impaling ; quarterly—over all a saltire wavy.  
 Motto : “Pensez puis parlez.” In capitals.]

## 7.—OVER LAST.

Sleepe in y<sup>e</sup> dust of death (w<sup>ch</sup> could not sting)  
 Till thou a glorious rising have to sing  
 Alleluia to God who'l rayse this dust  
 To right hand place & ioyes Amongst y<sup>e</sup> iust  
 Pure was thy name, thy practise also pure  
 Thy iust remembrance promiss'd to endure  
 Honor is ergo this is graven for view  
 Such Honour to y<sup>e</sup> Saints is but their due.

Psal : | 112. 6.

Who : being dead to us

Yet speake by patterne thus

Walke Vertues path Seeke gifts of grace

By frequent meeting in this place

Checke sinne with thoughts of death & doome

in life thinke of the life to come

feare God let life be vertues story

That deathe may bring a Crowne of Glory.

Hoc fac et ex fide Jesu vives. | Illustre virtutis et pietate  
 exemplar, | transientibus spectabile.

The corps of Katherin Cremer theres interr'd  
 whose Soule unto a Kingdome is prefer'd ;  
 in gifts of nature grace she did excell,  
 as steps to Glory wherein now she dwell  
 a saint made perfect with her Lord & head  
 wayting his second comming for the dead.  
 come Lord Jesus come quickly

This blessed Gentl<sup>r</sup> was the eldest daughter | of M<sup>r</sup>. William  
 Taylor of Burnham Merchant | y<sup>r</sup> prudent wife of M<sup>r</sup>. Henry  
 Cremer of lynn | customer who livd together xx yeares in  
 mu | tual ioye & comfort ; having borne unto him | 7 sonnes & 3  
 daughters. She finish'd a happy | course in 39 yeares & fell a  
 sleepe in the | Lord the 8 of octō 1647

[Arms : 3 wolves' heads erased—on a chief—3 cinquefoils.  
 In capitals.]

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8.—FLOOR OF SOUTH CHAPEL.

Here resteth till his Redeemer cometh | The body of THOMAS  
 NELSON Alderman | And once Maior of this Burrough who |  
 Departed this life the 26<sup>th</sup> of JULY 1654 | AGED 74 YEARES.

And of ELIZABETH his wife | Who departed this life | The 2<sup>th</sup>  
 of February 1649 | Aged 69 yeares.

Here Lyeth the Body of Jane the wife | of M<sup>r</sup>. John Kidd,  
 Mercer She was the | Eldest daughter of Henry Chennery Esq |  
 Alderman & once Mayor of this Corporation | She Departed this  
 life y<sup>e</sup> 4<sup>th</sup>. of June 1718 *Aged 27*

The Body of the same JOHN KIDD | who was also Mayor of  
 this Corporation | was here likewise interr'd vi Oct in the | xli  
 year of his age & of our Lord | cix. idcc. xx. viii.

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9.—SOUTH SIDE OF CHANCEL FLOOR.

Here Lieth the Body of Doro<sup>thy</sup> | The Wife of William Cremer |  
 Woollendrap. Daughter of Thomas Cabeck Of Heringswel | ...ster  
 & Of Elizabeth His Wife | . . e Died Iune y<sup>r</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> ano Ætatis |  
 23 Selutis 1657.

She was the Gift of God so said her name | And so say I her  
vertues said the Same | The Lord her Gave & tooke thinking it  
best | To order me to Trouble Her to rest | *William Cremer.*

[Arms : Cremer, as on No. 7, impaling 3 fleurs-de-lis.]

10.—FLOOR OF NORTH CHAPEL.

That wch<sup>th</sup> sowest | is not Quickened Except | it die. 1 cor.  
15. 36 & John | 12 : 24.

The Body of Rebecca y<sup>e</sup> | wife of Iohn Pulvertoft | Apothecary  
who Dyed | in y<sup>e</sup> faith of Christ & in | hope of y<sup>e</sup> resurrection |  
the 10<sup>th</sup> of August 1673.

11.—FLOOR OF NORTH CHAPEL.

Johannes Filius Edv : Bodham

Natus 30 7bris } 1673  
Obijt 2 8bris }

12.—FLOOR OF SOUTH CHAPEL.

H. S. E. | Anna fili . . . . ard Chester | Eq. Aur. . . . . Uxor  
Henri . . | Hoogan MD . . . . y<sup>e</sup> 29 Decemb. | 1678 [Arms nearly  
worn out.] | Here lies what was mortal | of MARY CHENNERY |  
(Relict of Mr. HEN CHENNERY | and daughter of ROB. EADE  
M.D.) | to whose Character | The last day will do Justice. | She  
died Jan. y<sup>e</sup> 17<sup>th</sup> 1721 aged 67. R. H. E.

(To be continued).

62.—**French Protestant Refugees in the Fens.**—In the 17th  
century many French Protestant families fled to England, and  
some of them settled at Needingworth and the neighbourhood.  
One of the Holywell registers contains a few notes about the  
briefs collected for their relief.

“Collected upon y<sup>e</sup> breif for Michael Kys and Peter Kys, Hun-  
garians, y<sup>e</sup> sum of 5/-.” July 16, 1667.

“Collected upon the brief for the French Protestants : paid to  
Mr. Salmon 12/-.” 1689.

“Collected upon the Brief for the poor exiled Vaudois and  
French Protestants, £1 18 11.” HERBERT E. NORRIS.

**63.—Apreece of Washingley.**—(No. 29, Part II.) On the 23rd of July, 1643, Oliver Cromwell by storm took "Burghley House by Stamford town," an event (summarized) from the *perfect Diurnal* of 27th July of that year. "The service, it is informed, was somewhat difficult, but it was taken with the loss of very few men, and many prisoners of note taken, amongst the rest, 2 colonels, 6 or 7 captains, 400 foot, about 200 horse, great store of arms, and abundance of rich pillage." In a return (dated 29th July) of the officers taken prisoners upon that occasion and sent to Cambridge was Sir Wingfield Bodenham (of Ryhall), Sheriff of the county, and (under Captains, &c.), confined in the Tolbooth, or common prison, I find the name of Robert Price, Esq., of Washingley, recusant. This should be Robert Apreece, Esq., of Washingley. Spelling in the 17th century was not a point of strict accuracy. A pedigree of the family is given in the Visitation of Hunts., by Nicholas Charles, Lancaster Herald, Deputy for Wm. Camden, Clar. 1613-14. I have no doubt Robert Apreece taken prisoner at Burghley, by some means obtained his release from Cambridge, rejoined the Royalist forces, and Robert Apreece shot at Lincoln was both one and the same person. None of our historians of the great Civil war, in which Oliver Cromwell played so conspicuous a part, have recorded many acts of his gallantry towards Royalist ladies. But one, in reference to the siege and capture of Burghley House I can place on permanent record, viz., his presentation of a painting of himself, by Walker, to the widowed Countess of Exeter, which is still preserved amongst the treasures of that princely mansion.

JUSTIN SIMPSON, Stamford.

**64.—A Ghastly Legend of Holbeach.**—In "Fen and Mere" the story of the Revellers is told with a hope that it was not true. It was in Holbeach church the incident occurred which has been embalmed in verse by Eliza Cook and Mr. Rawnsley.

I am unable to give the exact date or names of the actors who took part in the sad scene; perhaps some reader of *Fenland Notes and Queries* can assist me. The best authenticated version



seems to be that about the year 1800. A party who used frequently to meet at the "Chequers' Hotel" for game and wine agreed that whoever died first of the Jolly Quartett, should have a last rubber with him—a corpse. Be this as it may, a light was seen in the church late at night, brightest near the communion table. Prompted by curiosity, a man got a ladder and looked through the window. They were just in the act of finishing the game when he heard one ask, "Dummy, can you one?" The names given are I. Slator, J. Barker, T. Codling, and Jonathan Watson, a doctor who committed suicide by opening both his arms and bleeding to death. He was buried at cross roads, a christian burial being denied in cases of *felo de se*; temporary insanity being less common in the past than now. The friends had taken the corpse, placed it in a chair beside the communion table, placed cards in its hand, and thus, with it as dummy, played their last rubber. This sad affair, which seemed to have originated in a drunken frolic, caused so much horror and disgust, that the profligates who enacted it were obliged to leave the town. (?) There is some doubt as to the names of the living actors in the scene. No one, we can imagine, would care to have it known that he was connected with such reprobates, and might even be excused if some trouble were taken to prevent its being known.

S.E.

**65.—Thorney Abbey.**—"Mr. Maurice Johnson, of Spalding, has a drawing of Thorney Abbey, in a neatly written vellum map, of the Lordship made before the dissolution of the House, from which the structure appeared to be five times as large as the portion which at present remains. It had side aisles and spires, probably on both the western towers, whereof only that on the north side remained, and was represented in the map."

The above quotation is given by Warner, from Dugdale. Can any one say what has become of this map and drawing? Many persons, I feel sure, would like to know of its whereabouts, and what the Abbey was like in the olden time. Has the Duke of Bedford anything of the kind among his papers? S.E.

66.—**The Origin of the term Fen Tigers.**—(No. 43, Part II.) Probably a corruption of *Tike*, a country man, a clown; (Celtic, *Tiak* or *Tiac*, a plowman). The term occurs very early as one of contempt.—“*Zone heythene tykes*,” vide M.S. *Morte Arthure*, p. 91. S. EGAR.

67.—**The Origin of Gedney.**—(No. 35, Part II.) Gedney—the prefix *Gaed*, a goad, (A.S.); also a man's name. Hence, *Gaedan ea*, *Gaeda's water*. S. EGAR.

68.—**Croyland Notes.**—The last Abbot of this wealthy and powerful Benedictine house, John Wells *alias* Briggs, had the temporalities restored to him 3rd October, 1512, and with 27 inmates surrendered the Abbey to the Royal Commissioners, 4th December, 31st Henry VIII., (1539), and had assigned him an annual pension of £130 6s. 8d., a no inconsiderable sum in those days; but was not spared long to enjoy it, as he was dead in September, 1544. His will, never before published, is appended:

“In dei nomine Amen. I John Briggs, clerke, late Abbot of Crowlande in the county of Lincoln being of good memory doo make this my laste will & testament ffurste I bequeathe my soule to Allmyghty god the father in heauen our Lady & all the company of heauen they to pray to our Lorde god to take my soule to his great mercy so it maye withowte ende haue the fruceyon of his godhed & be Associate withe them yn heaven my boddy to be buryed in suche place as my Executours shall thynke conuenient. Item I will and bequeathe to the churche of Lincoln three shillings (&) foure pence. Item to the Reparācons of the churche where my body shalbe buryed Twenty shillings. Item to the churche of Crowlande fforty shillings. Item to the churche of Langtofte six shillings (&) eight pence. Item to the churche of Baston six shillings (&) eightpence. Item to the churche of Outywell in the parrishe of saint Clements towards the reparācons Twenty shillings. Item I will that one preeste shall sing & praye for my soule my fathers mothers Brothers & Sisterne w<sup>t</sup> oother my kynnesmen & kynneswomen soules for the space of ffive yeres he to haue yerely for his stypende one hundrethe (&) six shillings (&)

eight pence. Item I will that Tymothe Dygull haue when he come to xxiiij<sup>th</sup> yeres of age Ten pounds sterlinge. Item Alice Dygull daughter to John Dygull, & euery childe of the said John Dygull now borne to haue when they come of like age one hundred shillings & Alice to haue ouer and besides the ffue poundes at her mariage thirty three shillings (&) foure pence with one honnest fetherbedde & all that belongeth therunto. Item I bequeath to Beatrice Briggs daughter to the late William Briggs of Northfolke in lyke manner as Alice Dygull. Item to Elizabethhe Whytwell as to Alice & Beatrice as is aforesaid. Item to John Browne & henry Browne eche of them ffive poundes at like age. Item I will that euery childe of John Dygull Tymothe Dygull Beatrice Briggs Elizabethhe Whytwell henry Browne & John Browne as many of them as dieth withoute Issue of their boddies lawfully begotten eche of them to be oothers heyre as thus cury ones p'te to be denyed emonges theym that doo remayne & lyve. Item I will that eche of the women haue one Dyapr'e clothe w' p'te of my Lynnen such as my Executours shall thincke meet. Item I gyve to pson Tonworthe my gowne Lyned w<sup>th</sup> Dammaske. Item to my Chapleyn my nexte best gowne my satten Dublett a Jackett of Chamblett withe six spoones the litle standyng mazer his yeres wages & xiiij<sup>s</sup> (&) iiij<sup>d</sup> for his liuery. Item I will that euery of my yemon serūnts that shalbe yn suice w' me at my departure to haue one quarter wages one qrter(s) meate & dryncke or ells Ten shillings in money ten shillings for hys lyuery & xiiij<sup>s</sup> (&) iiij<sup>d</sup> to pray for my soule & my frendes soules & euery sunte (servant) as Brewer Baker the hyndes of husbandry their quarters wagis ffive shillings for their lyuery one monethes bedding (lodgng) & vj<sup>s</sup> (&) viij<sup>d</sup> to pray for my soule & my frendes soules and the children as Walter and Andrew if they will tarry as the hyndes hath. Item to Sir John Pynder one ffurred gowne with one Jaquett of woorsted. Item to Sir John Peyor one oother gowne w' a Jaquett faced w' coony. Item to Sir Nicholas my shorte gowne. Item to Thomas Whytwell the the lytle graven salt w' the couer six spoones the litle cūp with the Egull & one goblet or one playne peece w' one fether bedde &

necessaries to the same. Item to his wief my Riding gowne of Russell woosted with one Sarcenett Typpett. Item to John Dygull the oother two litle Salltes w<sup>t</sup> owt couers six spoones last bought & a playne mazer & if Whytwell take the playne pece he to haue the goblett w<sup>t</sup> one fether bedde next after Whytwell w<sup>t</sup> all things necessary to the same. Item to his wief my Colendo frocke w<sup>t</sup> the gowne subjn'd that I did vse when I was in the monastery. Item to Thomas Dygull six silver spoones w<sup>t</sup> a Doublet of Russell woosted & a Jaquet of the same. Item to his wyeff one oulde Riall or ells sev'n yards of Saye for a Kyrtle clothe. Item to William Browne all such Cattall as was gyven hym when I was sycke at Crowlande w<sup>t</sup> one shodd Carte gevis one ploughe ploughes w<sup>t</sup> to carte horssees & two Oxen. Item I will that all my pewter & brass as potts pannes Tables (? Tubbes) barrells Bedding napery not bequethed be deuyded equally amonge the children aforementioned. Item I will my Executours fynde William Dygull honestly as long as he lyueth & at his dep'ture to se hyme buryed honestly. Item I will that ouer & besides the preests theirbe gyuen to poore ffolkes at my buryall six poundes thirteene shillings (&) foure pence and euery oother daye as vij<sup>th</sup> daye xxx<sup>th</sup> daye & twelve monethe daye eche of them one hundred shillings. Item I gyve & bequeath to Robert Wyngfelde the younger my godsonne my syluer Bason w<sup>t</sup> the cover. Item to Margarett Cecill forty shillings. Item to Gutlake Edwardes three poundes six shillings (&) eight pence. The Rest of my goodes not bequeathed nor gyven as Corne Cattall plate and all oother I will they be soulde to the pfoo' maunce of this my last will & that perfoormed the rest to be employed & bestowed in deeds of charity for my soule by my executo<sup>r</sup>s which I by this my last will I make master Robert Wyngfelde thelder of Helpestone Esquier Thomas Wytwell John Dygull & Sir Thomas Greneham Clarke & Mr. Richard Ogle of Pynchbecke Esquier to be Superwysors euery one of the executours to haue for his labo<sup>r</sup>six poundes thirteene shillings (&) foure pence & the supervisors five poundes. In witness of the premysses to this my last will I have the xvij<sup>th</sup> daye of Auguste in the yere of our Lord god a thowsand

ffyyve hoondrethe & fourty And the xxxii<sup>th</sup> yere of the Reigne of our moste gracious Lord King Henry viij<sup>th</sup> supreme hedde of the Churche of Englande whome Jhu presue Long to his pleasure caused this booke to be written Theis being wytnes Thomas whitwell Thomas Grencham Clerk ser John Prio<sup>r</sup> Clerk John Dygull & oother(s) Proved at London 11 Sept 1544 by Thomas Grencham & Robt. Wyngfeld before David Clapham, procurator (Reg. 14 Pyng)."

The Margaret Cecil named in the will I am unable to "tack on" in the pedigree of Cecils as now represented by the Marquis of Exeter, and the Marquis of Salisbury, K.G. David Cecil, the first of the family who settled here, c. 1494, a yeoman, resided in the parish of St. George, Stamford, and by will desired his body to be buried in the church of that parish. All things considered, I have but little doubt that she was a member of the family, perhaps daughter of David's eldest son, Richard Cecil, or second son, David.

"Master Robert Wyngfelde the elder of Helpstone, esq.," was auditor of the possessions of the Abbey by letters patent of seal of the house, for life, at £4 13. 4. p. an at its surrender, had that amount granted him p. an. by the King & is returned as receiving such at Michs 2 & 3 P. & M. (1555). Had a grant of the manor of Upton in the parish of Caster, Northamps, 35 H.8., represented Peterboro' 1st & 5th Elizab. d. 5 Feb. 1575(6), Robert, s. & h. was aged 44 at his death. Robert W. Jr (d. 1580). mar. Elizab. d. of Rich. Cecil, & sister to Sir Wm C first Baron Burghley. Robt. W the elder by will dated 4 June 17 Elizab. & pr 6<sup>th</sup> July, 1576, in which he designates himself as Robert Wingfelde of Upton, a Northampton, esq. My wretched body which is naught but dust & ashes I commit to the earth to be buried in the church of Ufford, where my late wife, whose soul God pardon lieth buried, or elsewhere as it shall please them that shall take pains thereabout. He names, *i.e.*, his sister M<sup>rs</sup> Jane Cecill, Sir Robert Cecill, & appoints Sir William Cecil, Knt., Lord Burghley, & High Treasurer of England, supervisor of his will. *v.* Blores' Rutland, p. 69,

table 9, for a pedigree of this branch of the (Suffolk) family of Wingfield.

To Robt. W son of Rt & Elizabeth (Cecill) W knted 1603, d. 1609 we are indebted for the trial & execution of Mary of Scotland, one of the most graphic & interesting narratives of a state trial yet written in our language."

(To be continued.)

**69.—Fen Provincialisms.**—(No. 37, Part II).

**BOOZER.**—A beer drinker.—Dutch, *buysen*. To tippie (W., bozi), fuddled; stupid with drink.—Skelton.

**BONE or BOON.**—Gift; assistance; help. "We ax'd them to give us a boon, but they would not. Then we should ha' got done in good time."

**BUSKINS.**—Gaiters; leggings. To busk: active; busy.

**BUSKING or BUSICKING.**—Said of fowls, or partridges, dusting themselves. "Here are the places where they have been busicking."

**BREAK THE ICE.**—To open a secret to a person; to communicate unwelcome news.

**BLARING.**—Roaring; bellowing; bleating; crying. The voice of sheep or cattle making a noise for food, &c. "What are those calves blaring about; aint you fed them yet? A great blaring fellow, *i.e.*, noisy.—"The cow blores."

**BEHAVE.**—"Behave yourself, do," viz., conduct yourself properly. To manage; to govern. Hence behaviour used in a collateral sense.—King John i. 1.

**BOKE.**—1. To belch; vomit; nauseate. A.S., *belean*. "It smelt awful; I was fit to boke my heart up." 2. To rise quickly. "Its such light hoovy stuff, it will boke up in no time; we shall want the stage in a hour," said of a stack of wheat.

**BUGABOO.**—A bugbear; a ghost. An ugly wide mouthed picture used in the May games (*according to Coles*) was so called. A monster; orc, or goblin. Introduced into the tales of old Italian romancers. Spencer says, "A ghastly bug doth greatly then affear," (Book II, c. 3). Hamlet has "bugs and goblins,"

(v. 2.) "Warwick was a bug that feared us all," (Henry VI., v. 2.)

"To the world no bugbear is so great  
As want of figure and a small estate."—Pope.\*

Welsh, *bwg*; a hobgoblin. A term synonymous with boggy, an imaginary monster (Bailey), used to frighten children. "If you don't behave, bogie will have you," "Go to sleep, do, or I'll fetch the bugaboos to you," we have often heard in the Fens. "Bogie is probably from bogu, the Slavonic name for the Deity," (*vide* Words and Places, page 330).

**BANKER.**—A navvy, (contraction of navigator); a man who worked in the rivers, on drainage works, or embankments in the Fenland was so called. They are now generally termed navvies; excavators.—*Navy*, a canal (*vide* Halliwell.)

**BUTTY.**—A mate, or companion. A term much used among navvies.

**BURR.**—The burr, or halo round the moon, is said to be a sign of rain.

"The burred moon fortells great storms at hand."—J. Clare.

Burr is the prickly seed pod of the burdock.

**BUTTER BUMP.**—The bittern. Now a great rarity in the Fens. Once very common in the Mere and neighbourhood.—*Vide* Skelton, vol. II., page 130.

**BELL-RINGER.**—The long-tailed titmouse was so called.

**BRUNT.**—Unceremonious; abrupt; hasty. Swedish, "brant"—rough; rude; assault; onset. "I'll bear the brunt of the quarrel, you need not fear."

**BUZZARD (FEN).**—Buzzard; *butzart*, Teut.; *Buzard*, French. A great sluggish fowl. A kind of hawk, or kite, once common in the Fens. A senseless ignorant fellow; a coward: a derisive name for a Fen man.

"Of small renown, 'tis true, for not to lie,  
We called (your buzzard) hawk by courtesy."

Hind and Panther III., Dryden.

**BREEDLINGS.**—"Fen men" were formerly so called.—Pepys, in his Diary, at Parson Drove, Sep. 17th, 1663, writes: "Which if

\* Pope was a little deformed man.

they be born there they do call the Breedlings of the place." In 1689 they were so called, according to Macaulay. Afterwards a century later, perhaps, they were known as "Slodgers." Fen Slodgers. Bradling—a river fisherman of East Anglia, may probably be the root of the old Fen name "*Bradley*."

**BIG WIG.**—A person in authority; one of the "Nobs." It arose from Judges and others wearing wigs. In the United States persons of wealth and position are spoken of in some parts as "*Big Wigs*;" more frequently "*Big Bugs*."

**BUST.**—Burst. The "Bank's bust"—"The Bank's busted"—was the cry of the Bellman at Crowland, early in the morning of Oct. 10th, 1880, when the Welland Bank gave way from the pressure of floods in the Wash. He was too excited to give more information. There was a general scare, not only at Crowland, but throughout the surrounding district, owing to the sudden awakening by messengers sent around the country side to warn the inhabitants. We heard one lusty hallo, "The Welland Bank's broke. *Take care of your stock.* I come by Mr. Watson's orders." And then away, without essaying further information. Owing to the scare thus caused and semi-wakefulness, many persons, at other times calm and deliberate, lost all presence of mind, and were guilty of actions which appeared most ludicrous when a correct knowledge of the extent of the mischief and the events of the morning became known. Bust—hot bread eaten with butter; a loaf.

**BOGGLE (To).**—To hesitate; demur. "I boggled at it." To stumble; to start, as a horse at some unaccustomed object; to be uncertain; to waver. Probably from *bog*, a quagmire. Nares gives boggler, a vicious woman.

**BARREN.**—The vagina of the cow. Sw., *barane*; Dan., *barrend*. Barrener, is a cow not again in calf.

**BRANGLE.**—Dispute; quarrel. Norse, *branga*—a tumult; disturbance. "I don't want no branglement about it." Also confused; entangled; complicated, as a brangled hank of worsted or cotton; a raffled skein.

**BOTHER.**—To tease; to annoy. "Botheration to you, don't



worry me." *Pother* (Hibernian). Idle chatter, superfluous verbage. Halliwell gives us *blother*, which he says means to chatter idly. A stupid person is said to be blothered.

"I blunder, I bluster, I blowe, and I blother;  
I make on the one day and I marr on the other."

BOYKIN.—A small boy; as a term of endearment, *vide* Sir John Oldecastle and Palgrave, A.D. 1540.

BOLE.—The trunk of a tree. Dan., *bul*. See Morte d' Arthur.

BUMPKIN.—An awkward heavy rustic; a clown; a loutish person. Dutch, *boomken*—a sprout; a fool. Hence we have Lumpkin (Tony), *vide* "She Stoops to Conquer," "with the vices of a man and the follies of a boy," fond of low company, but giving himself the airs of the young Squire. Nicholas Lumpkin owned Park House, Leverington, Wisbech. It is said Goldsmith wrote "She Stoops to Conquer" at *this place*, in which Tony Lumpkin is a well known character. There is a very fine oak in the old fashioned garden associated with the above.

BUMPTIOUS.—High; arrogant; puffed up. From the same low *Saxon* or *Dutch* root.

BUNNY.—A rabbit. Sir Thomas Brown says, probably *Danish*. A pet name for rabbit; a term of endearment. "Oh! Bunny, Bunny, Bunny, how could you do so?"

BOUGE OUT (To).—To bulge out irregularly.

BRAG.—To boast unduly, U.S., *not much heard in the Fens*. From *Braggaert*; *Belg.*, to walk in state.

BY-BY.—Sleep, from Greek, *vide* Bailey. "Go by-by, there's a darling, nurse will sing to 'oo." The hum, or song, of the nurse to cause her nursling to sleep. S.E.

(*To be continued*).

70.—**Fenland Proverbs and Quaint Sayings.**—The people inhabiting the Fens are called "Fen tigers"; "Fen buzzards"; "Fen yellow bellies," comparing them to frogs; "Cambridgeshire camels," from the Fenmen formerly using stilts; "Cambridgeshire men," because they fought the Danes and Normans when the East Anglians ran away. Frogs are known as "Fen nightingales," and "Lincolnshire bagpipes." "Web-footed, like a Fenman,"

from their almost amphibious habits. "A Fenman's dowry:" three geese and a pelt (sheepskin). "All hair and teeth, like a Ramsey man." "Bare as Boston scalp." "As high as Boston stump." "All the carts that come to Croyland are shod with silver," being in the Fens, no carts could travel there. "Arrested by the Bailey of Marshland," means an attack of Fen ague. "Like Grantham gruel, two groats to a gallon of water," or "Grantham gruel, nine grits and a gallon of water," is said when anyone multiplies what is superfluous and omits what is necessary in his conversation. "They held together, like the men of Marholm, when they lost their common," is said when people lose their cause by disagreeing. "Lincolnshire, where the hogs drop soap and the cows drop fire," (cow dung was dried and used as fuel, pigs' manure was also prepared and used for the purposes of soap. "Lincolnshire hogs" is an uncomplimentary allusion to the Lincolnshire people. "He is on his way to Beggars bush," in Huntingdonshire, applied to a spendthrift. The tree called "Beggar's bush" is near Godmanchester. "As mad as the baiting bull at Stamford." "He was born at Little Witham," means a fool. "As wild as a wildmore tit" is applied to a hot tempered person. A wildmore tit was a small spirited horse which was formerly bred in the Lincolnshire Fens. "Wetting one's whistle," quenching one's thirst, may have originated from the use of whistle tankards. "As loud as Tom of Lincoln," the big bell in the Cathedral. "Gone to Humber," when anything is lost. "As queer as Dick's hatband," which went nine times round and would not tie, means an impossibility, as the hatband is said to have been formed of sand. "As stunt as a burnt wong," also "As tough as a burnt wong." A wong is a leathern thong. "Drunken Thoresby" is applied to North Thoresby, and a somewhat similar name is given to the inhabitants of Whittlesea, who are called "Whittlesea Boozers." C. DACK, Peterborough.

**71.—Fenland Briefs.**—(No. 2.)—A book was kept at Abbots Ripton, in which the Briefs were entered, commencing from 1709.

"In 1713, the amount collected, was £1. 6. 5½; being afterwards distributed in Essex, Chester, Nottingham & Stafford.

“Collected for y<sup>c</sup> loss by fire at Cherry Hinton, in y<sup>c</sup>  
County of Cambridge ... .. 2s. 9d.”

“Collected for loss by Fire at Folborne, com. Cam-  
bridge ... .. 3s.” 1729.

“Guilden Morden. com. Cambridge, loss by fire 1s. 5d.” 1734.

“Swaffham Prior, com. Cambridge, loss by fire 7s. 8½d.” 1736.

Mem. “Collected in this parish (Abbots Ripton, Hunts.)  
towards a loss by fire that happened at Fenstanton in this county  
of Hunts in April last past—the sum of (in all) Thirteen pounds,  
six shillings & tenpence) whereof Nicholas Bonfoy, Esq., gave  
four pounds, one shilling for himself ; the rest of his family, six  
pounds, twelve shillings and sixpence : the rest of the Parish gave  
two pounds and ten pence.” June, 1737.

Mem. “Towards the loss by fire that hap'ned at Welling-  
borough in Northamptonshire in July last past, was collected in  
this parish on Aug. 20. following, the sum of seven pounds, seven  
shillings & seven pence half'ny—£7.7:7½” 1738.

“Hinxton. com. Cambridge loss by fire 6s. 2d.” 1740.

“Collected on a letter of request towards the loss by fire at  
Sutton in the Isle of Ely (damage about £2,080) £4. 8. 1.” 1740.

Mem. “There was collected in this parish towards y<sup>c</sup> loss by  
fire at Stilton in this com. (in March 1727) y<sup>c</sup> sum of £9. 16 : 1  
five guineas of which money were given by Nicholas Bonfoy.  
J. Jones, Curate.”

HERBERT E. NORRIS, St. Ives.

**72.—Houghton Church (Hunts.)**—This church is rather  
singular in possessing *no* interior monumental tablets. They were  
probably removed at the restoration in 1850. This is a good  
example of the way in which interesting and valuable information  
is lost. If a transcript had been made of all the monumental  
inscriptions in the church before the so-called restoration, interest-  
ing genealogical records might have been preserved. It is a  
curious fact that there is only one monument attached to the  
church, and that is on the exterior south wall. It is an oval tablet,  
inscribed: “Near this place lieth the body of John Prescott,  
gent., who died 19<sup>th</sup> September, 1795, aged 69 years.”

Among the many epitaphs to be found in Houghton churchyard, the following affords an example of an exceptionally quaint nature :—

“Sacred to the memory of THOMAS GARDNER, who died September 30th, 1826, aged 77 years.

“My sledge and hammer lie reclined,  
My bellows, too, have lost their wind,  
My fire’s extinct, my forge decayed,  
My vice is in the dust all laid :  
My coal is spent, my iron gone,  
My nails are drove, my work is done ;  
My fire-dried corpse here lies at rest.  
My soul, smoke-like, soars to the blest.”

HERBERT E. NORRIS, St. Ives.

**73.—The Mason Family.**—Mr. N. H. Mason is about to publish a genealogical work on the Mason family, who were connected with this part of England, especially in the counties of Huntingdonshire, Lincolnshire, Norfolk, Northamptonshire, &c. Mr. Mason asks for any information concerning the family, which may be sent direct to him, at 35, Maelise Road, West Kensington.

**74.—Mediæval Features of Fenland Churches.**—Mr. Henry Littlehales has compiled an interesting pamphlet giving a list of special Mediæval features in the parish churches of England. The little work is published by Rivington. Its scope is almost too wide for such a small volume, and the list might be easily increased. The following is the list of Fenland churches with their Mediæval features. Some of our readers would perhaps like to add to the list.

HUNTINGDONSHIRE.

Hemingford Abbots : Tomb of Abbot of Ramsey.

Sawtry : Brass.

Conington : Effigy of a Knight in the dress of a Friar.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE.

Soham : According to a will of 1607, a parishioner was in this church buried upright, at his “Stoole’s end,”

Leverington : Metal Lectern.

Isleham : Metal Lectern.

LINCOLNSHIRE.

Heckington : Easter Sepulchral, Vestry floor.

Deeping St. James : The Roman Catholic Church has a rood from a church in Belgium.

Boston : Woodwork.

Long Sutton : Metal Lectern.

NORFOLK.

Lynn : Brasses, Metal Lectern.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE.

Mazey : Rood Loft, Piscina.

75.—**Elvin's Dictionary of Heraldry.**—Mr. Charles Morton Elvin, M.A., of Eckling Grange, East Dereham, Norfolk, has just published a "Dictionary of Heraldry," which will be welcomed by every herald, antiquary, and genealogist. It supplies what has been a long felt want. It is probably the experience of even the most practised antiquary that at times he is at a loss to use the correct term in heraldry, and there has hitherto been no handy volume to which he could safely turn. Mr. Elvin's work provides this want. It gives a complete list of the terms used in Heraldry, and it is an admitted fact that none of the previous attempts in this direction—excellent as some of them have been—have succeeded in giving anything like a perfect glossary. But Mr. Elvin's work is a great deal more than a glossary, it is quite an encyclopædia to the science. The illustrations, number about two thousand five hundred. Mr. Elvin has done all the drawings himself, but the engraving is the joint work of Messrs. J. C. Baker, L. Cully, and R. Rowlandson. The draughtsman, the engravers, and the printer are to be heartily congratulated on the excellence of their work. The letter-press description of the engravings occupies 65 pages, and the dictionary itself extends to 134 pages. A herald painter can hardly afford to be without the work, but an amateur by its help will be readily able to blazon any coat that may come under his notice. Considering the exten-

sive strides which the study of heraldry and the tracing of ancestry has made within the last two years, Mr. Elvin's Dictionary will be particularly valuable to all who are engaged in such studies. It is impossible in the space of a short notice, like the present, to point out all the useful features which the work contains. It is admirably printed and published by Mr. W. H. Brown, Market Place, East Dereham.

**76.—The Manner of Raising the Train Band in the Fens.**—The following is an extract from a M.S. in the possession of Mr. W. B. Ground, of Castle House, Whittlesea :—

“A List of the several Persons. in Whittlesea charged to find Foot Arms in the Train Band Militia for the said Isle &c : who are to provide for every Soldier a Musket the Barrel thereof to be four feet long and the Gauge of the Boar thereof for a Bullet of 12 in the Pound with Bayonet to fix on the Muzzle thereof a Cartridge Box and a Sword and they are to send in a List of such Able Bodied Men as shall be fitt for Service for an Approbation before the first Day of June next at Wisbeach given by the Deputy Lieutenant at Wisbeach aforesaid this Eighth day of May 1716.

“N : B : by the Statute every 50£ a Year Estate or 1000 £ Stock and Money at Interest is liable to find a Foot Soldier pursuant to which the Deputy Lieutenant had by a Warrant dated as above charged the Township of Whittlesea with 24 Foot Arms and 7 Horses which appearing to the Inhabitants a charge too big for their Pound Rate by which the whole Township had been long Assessed to all Subsidy Taxes and by which the whole Value of their Estates was Rated at 3750£ so the 24 Men of the Foot Amounting to 1200£ and the Seven Horse at 500£ to a Horse Amounting to 3500£ the whole be 4700£ which is too much by 950£ therefore upon Application being made to the Deputy Lieutenants the Town was abated 4 Men and One Horse which has brought the Charge much nearer (viz the 20 Foot to 1000£ and the 6 Horse 3000£ so that the Charge in all exceeds the

Rate no more than 250£ with which the Town was forced to content itself.

“As to the Horse the Great Estates only was Subjected to such as that of George Downs Gent. Lord of our Manor The Earl of Lincoln Sir John Brownlo D<sup>r</sup> Wrights Heirs Hugh Coventry Esquire M<sup>r</sup> Wiseman and M<sup>r</sup> Laxon,

“And as the Foot is N<sup>o</sup> 20 as above said they were to be raised by the rest of the Town after the Great Estates above said were taken out and every Estate though of the lowest Value chargeable to find its part in Proportion with the Rest by an Agreement of the Inhabitants then met to consult about this Affair it was resolved to exempt all Estates under Forty Shillings a Year and to make an Equal charge upon the rest accordingly to the Value Assessed to the Land Tax for that Year which They did and as followeth in which charge I have set down every Man charged and the Value of his Estate as Assessed in the Land Tax in Column at the left hand of his Name and at the Right Hand what Shares or parts he and his partners bears of the Soldier and lastly the number of Soldiers whereby it will be plain that the charge is very near equal only thus much I much advise the Reader. That some small Estates belonging to Poor Men that have many children have been put at a less Value than Assessed to the Land Tax as for instance one of 4£ has been put in at 2£ and another at 3£ put in at 1£ at which they stand Rated here as if that were their true Assessment which being premis'd I shall say no more.”

**77.—The Family of Wiseman of Eastrea Hall.**—“A.D. 1649. October 1<sup>st</sup>.—An Indenture of this date made between Roger Wiseman of Eastrey within the Isle of Elye in the County of Cambridge Gentleman of the one part and Thomas Wiseman of Whittlesey and Thomas White of Leverington within the said Isle and County Gent of the other part Witnesseth that the said Roger Wiseman for divers good Causes and Considerations him thereunto moving Doth covenant and grant to and with the said Thomas Wiseman and Thomas White by these presents that he

the said Roger Wiseman shall and will before the end of Michaellmas Tearme now next following in due forme of Law acknowledge and leavy one Fine S<sup>r</sup> Cognuzance de droit come ceo que il ad de son done w<sup>th</sup> proclamation thereupon had according to the Statute in such case provided of ”

[Here follows a statement of the property.]

“ All which premises do amount in the whole to Three hundred Acres and are situate lying and being within the Town and Territories of Whittlesey aforesaid The which said Fine and the execution thereupon had shall be taken and deemed to be and enure To the Uses Intents and purposes hereafter in these p<sup>s</sup>ents expressed and declared and to no other use intent or purpose whatsoever that is to say To the use of him the said Roger Wiseman and his Assignes for and during the terme of his natural life w<sup>out</sup> impeachment of or for any manner of Wast and from and after the decease of him the said Roger Wiseman To the Use and Uses of such person and persons and for such estate and estats as he the said Roger Wiseman by his last Will and Testament in writing sealed and subscribed before two or more credible Witnesses shall declare limit and appoint And in default of such Declaration and Lymmittation then To the Use of the said Thomas Wiseman and the Heirs of his body lawfully begotten and to be begotten and for default of such Issue To the Use of the right Heires of the said Roger Wiseman for ever in witnes whereof the said parties to these p<sup>s</sup>ents have interchangably set their hands and Seals the day and Yeare first above written Roger © Wiseman. Sealed and delivered the day and Yeare within mentioned these beinge Witnesses — Wilyam Higham—Will Ground.”

“ Ann, the oldest daughter of William Wiseman of Wittlesey by Ann his Wife, married Will<sup>m</sup> Bludwick of Wisbech, Gentleman.

“ Eleanor, another daughter married Thomas Moore of Wittlesey, Gentleman.

“ Margaret, another daughter married Robert Stona (Clerk) of Kings Lynn in Norfolk in 1732.—(Seen in a Deed in 1817).



“The Will of the said William Wiseman is dated the 15<sup>th</sup> April 1714 & was proved at Doctors Commons 21<sup>st</sup> August 1719.

“Ann the Wife of the said William Wiseman survived him and afterwards married —Hutchinson.”

**78.—Tombstone Inscriptions from Whittlesey St. Mary.**

**SOUTH WALL OF CHANCEL.**

**1.**

Near this place | lieth entered the body of | William Underwood Esq. | who was many years one of y<sup>e</sup> six bailiffs | of the great level of the Fenns one of the | Deputy Lieutenants of this Isle & County | one of y<sup>e</sup> justices of y<sup>e</sup> Peace (quoram | unus) | in y<sup>e</sup> county of Cambridge, Huntingdon | Isle of Ely, & Middlesex. He married for | his first wife Martha sole daughter of | James Rothwell of y<sup>e</sup> Tower of London Esq. | and left issue by her at his death Martha | who married Michael Beale Gent. & | Abigail who married Webb Moore, Gent | He departed this life y<sup>e</sup> 23d day of July 1751 | aged 73.

**2.**

Sacred to the memory of | Henry Haynes | who died on the night of October 29<sup>th</sup> 1800 | in the 55<sup>th</sup> year of his age | To the Almighty who alone knoweth the heart | must be left the awful task | of recording his virtues | In the bosom of his family where they were most exercised | they will be best remembered | His children in silent anguish | perform the last mournful duty | towards a beloved parent | by erecting this monument to his memory | This marble further perpetuates the memory of | Mary the beloved wife of Henry Haynes | who after a life spent in innocence and virtue | resigned her gentle spirit | into the hands of God | on Saturday the 3rd day of March 1810 in the | 69<sup>th</sup> year of her age.

**3.**

Near to this place | lieth interred the body | of Will<sup>m</sup> Underwood junr Esqr | late of the Inner Temple | London, barrister at law, he | Departed this life the 30<sup>th</sup> day | of September 1776 in the 28<sup>th</sup> | year of his age | He was a gentleman sincere in friendship |

generous & obliging in his Temper | affable & facetious in conversation | and highly esteemed by all who knew him | Near here to lieth | also y<sup>e</sup> body of Rothwell Underwood gent | his younger brother who departed this life | the 25 day of June 1723 | aged 12 years.

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## 4.

Sacred | to the memory of | Eliza Swanson | the lamented daughter of | George & Eliza Burges | She died Sep 10<sup>th</sup> 1800 | In the 11<sup>th</sup> year of her age | Thy Kingdom come.

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## 5.

Sacred | to the memory of | Eliza | the beloved wife of | The Rev<sup>d</sup> George Burges | She died Jan<sup>y</sup> 30<sup>th</sup> 1815 | In the 47<sup>th</sup> year of her age | Thy will be done | The Rev<sup>d</sup> George Burges | vicar of Halvergate & Moulton | Norfolk | died Jan<sup>y</sup> 24<sup>th</sup> 1853 | aged 89 years | "I know that my Redeemer liveth." | Job XIX. 25.

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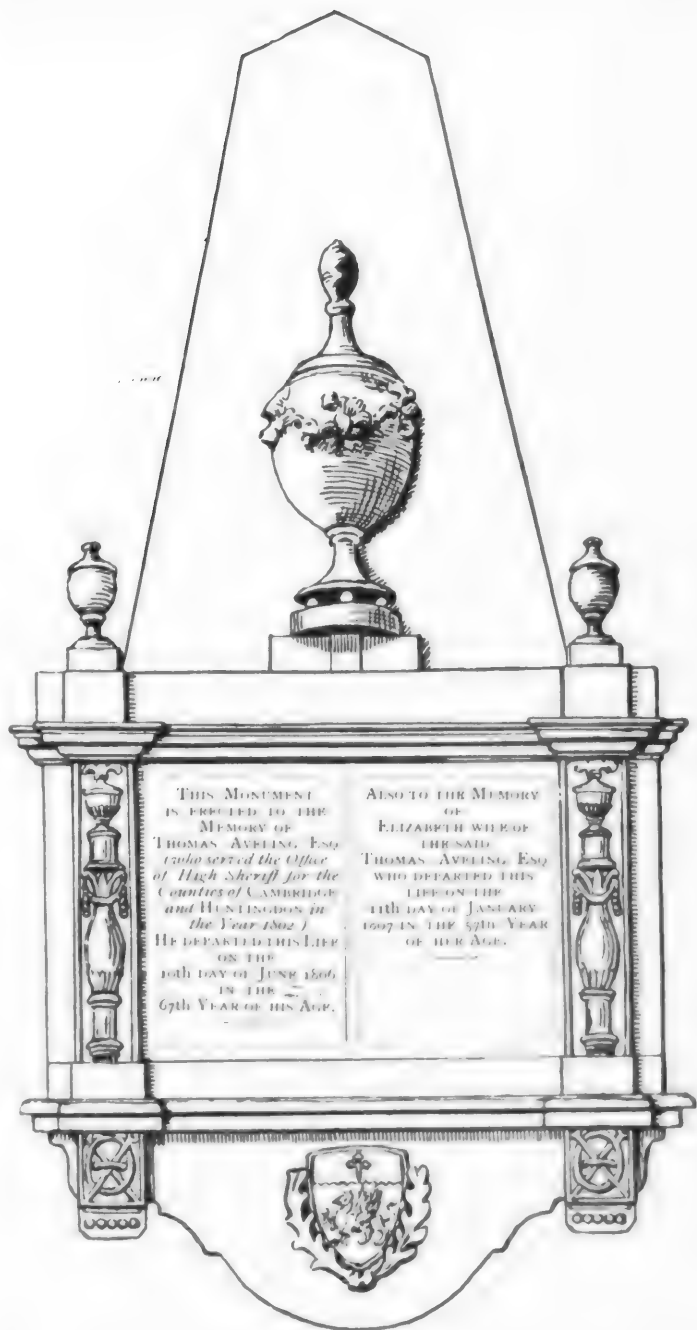
## 6.

This monument is erected | to the memory of | Thomas Aveling Es<sup>t</sup> | (who served the office of | High Sheriff for the Counties | of Cambridge & Huntingdon | in the year 1802) | He departed this life | on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of June 1806 | in the 67<sup>th</sup> year of his age. | Also to the memory of | Elizabeth wife of the said | Thomas Aveling Es<sup>t</sup> | who departed this life | on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of January | 1807, in the 57<sup>th</sup> year | of her age.

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## 7.

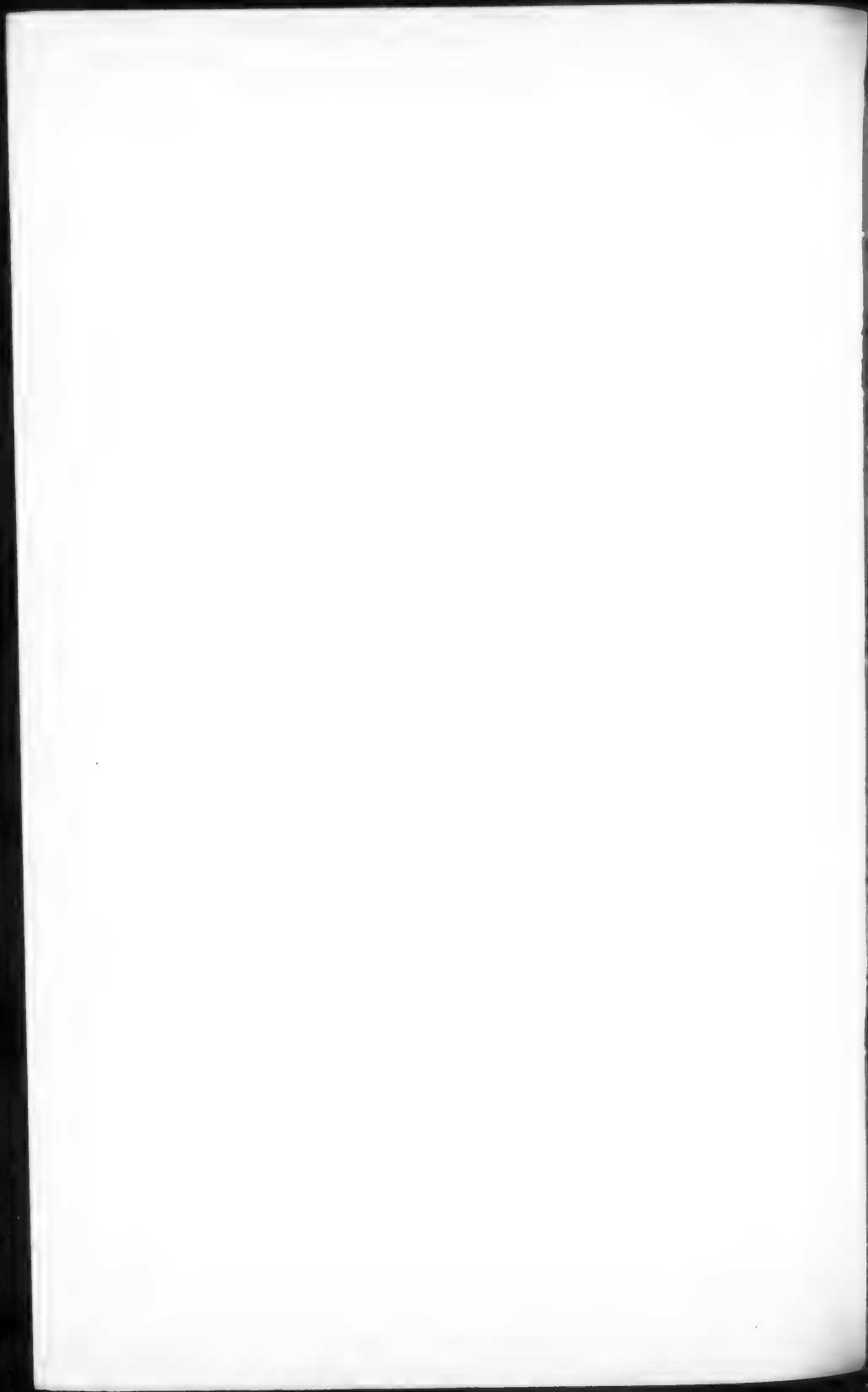
In loving memory of | Thomas Bowker | for 67 years a resident in this parish wherein | he held many offices of Trust, & who was appointed | a justice of the Peace for the Isle of Ely in 1825 | and a Deputy Lieutenant for the County of Cambridge in 1852 | Born 8<sup>th</sup> of August 1791 Died 10<sup>th</sup> of May 1882 | Thou shalt go | to the fathers in peace | thou shalt be buried | in a good old age | Gen. xv. 15) This memorial was erected by his surviving children.



THIS MONUMENT  
IS ERECTED TO THE  
MEMORY OF  
THOMAS AVELING, ESQ  
*who served the Office  
of High Sheriff for the  
Counties of CAMBRIDGE  
and HUNTINGDON in  
the Year 1802*  
HE DEPARTED THIS LIFE  
ON THE  
10th DAY of JUNE 1806  
IN THE  
67th YEAR OF HIS AGE.

ALSO TO THE MEMORY  
OF  
ELIZABETH WIFE OF  
THE SAID  
THOMAS AVELING, ESQ  
WHO DEPARTED THIS  
LIFE ON THE  
11th DAY of JANUARY  
1807 IN THE 57th YEAR  
OF HER AGE.





## NORTH END OF CHANCEL.

8.

Spe resurgendi | Iuxta hic depositum quod mortale fuit, |  
 Gulielmi Underwood Ar:è familiâ ejusdem | nominis de Weston  
 in agro Hart<sup>o</sup> Oriundi | Elizabethæ etiam ux: ejus Gulielmi |  
 Hobson Lincolniensis Ar: filix unicæ | qui vitarum suarum  
 decurrere tramitem; | hic die 7<sup>o</sup> Ianuarii Anno Dni 1683 Itta 24  
 | Sept<sup>bris</sup> 1703 cælestem patriam ad migrantes | Gulielmus  
 Underwood Arm: filius mæreus. | Parentib: charissimis officiosæ  
 pietatis, | et memoriæ ergô hoc monumentum posuit.

9.

Brass.—Here lyeth bvrried the bodeye of Thomas Hake, esqvier  
 | sonne and heire of Symon Hake of Depinge in | the covntie of  
 Lyncolne esqvier and of Alice | His wife dovghter of Thomas  
 Lynham esqvier svmtyme president of Walles<sup>ta</sup> which Thomas  
 | Hake died the first of March An<sup>o</sup> Dni 1590 . . . . .  
 who married Anne dovghter of Roger Wylson | of Govsner in the  
 covntie of Lancaster gent | And of Jane his wife dovghter of  
 Iohn Wallis which | Thomas and Anne had yssve 5 sonnes and 3  
 dovggh | ters which died all yonge bvt William Hake the | yongest  
 ther only sonne and heire now livinge.

10.

To the memory of Elizabeth Kentish wife of Richard Kentish  
 Esq<sup>r</sup> | who died of a pulmonary consumption at Kentish-town,  
 near London | June the seventh 1792 aged 27 years | This  
 monument is erected by her husband who designed it at Rome  
 whither | he went for the recovery of his health impaired by  
 sorrow | Natures best gift Eliza virtue hail | While life remains  
 I'll hold thy memory dear | In sorrowing accents oft thy loss  
 bewail | And from my inmost soul let fall a tear: | tribute of love,  
 affection grief sincere | This marble is further sacred to y<sup>e</sup> memory  
 of Eliz<sup>th</sup> Aveling, wife of Edw<sup>d</sup> Aveling gent | and mother of y<sup>e</sup>  
 above lady | who died Nov 2. 1788 at y<sup>e</sup> age of 53 years and of  
 Rob Smith LLB | and formerly of St. John Coll. Camb. He  
 departed this life January y<sup>e</sup> 11 1801 aged 82 years.

## 11.

This monument | is erected to the memory | of Mrs. Mary Griffiths | (and daught<sup>r</sup> of Web Moore gent | and Abigail his wife | one of the daughters of | Will<sup>m</sup> Underwood Esq.) | she died March 18<sup>th</sup> 1792 | in the 58<sup>th</sup> year | of her age.

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## 12.

This monument is erected | to the memory of | Thomas & Stephen | sons of | Thomas Aveling Esqr & Elizabeth his wife | Thomas died March 24 · 1805 | aged 34 years | leaving a widow & five children | Stephen died at Newry in Ireland March 27<sup>th</sup> 1804 | aged 32 years, leaving a widow and two children | Mary Relict of Stephen Aveling died at Newry May 19 · 1805 aged 29 years.

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## 13.

In this church is interred ye body of ye Rev<sup>nd</sup> Mr Francis Whitstons | B.D. late rector of Woodstone in Huntingdonshire and fellow of St. | John's College in Cambridge Born March 25 Anno Dni 16<sup>87</sup>/<sub>8</sub> died Jan 25 Anno Dni 17<sup>90</sup>/<sub>8</sub> | He was second son of Thomas Whitstons of this town Esq<sup>r</sup> who in memory | of his dutiful behaviour has erected this monument on which y<sup>o</sup> virtues | and merits of deceased are briefly and elegantly expressed by a very worthy | and learned friend of his in ye subsequent lines: | Siste paulum viator | Scire te non pigebit | Quam venerandum Depositum Marmor hoc tenet | Doctrinum in omni scientiarum genere | Sine fastu cumulatissimam | Veram sine dolo Sapientiam | Mores candidissimos | Et sinceram sine fuco Pietatem: | Zelum Deing | Non ignes caelitus expellentem | Ut fidei adversarios consumerer | Sed amore intus ardentem divino | Animarum saluti invigilanti | Pastorem Evangelicum caelestia spirantem | Non opinis inhiantem Beneficiis | Non potentiorum limina frequentantem | Non popularem auram ambientem | Sed gregem proprium exemplo pareter ac doctrine | Fideliter emdientem | Sed antiquæ Fidei Investigatorem sedulum | Et acerrimum investigatæ vindicem | Quem et amici et Hostes veritatis | Paralum stare in pro-

cintu semper viderent | Seu rationis prosternere telis, | Aut sacris  
 Dei refellere oraculis, | Vel ex primaevæ Sapientiæ monumentis  
 | Profligare funditus | Repullulantem Hærescos Hydram, | Quæ  
 torvæ colla nunc ferocius erigit | Virusq. exomit in os illibatam |  
 Venerandæ Matris Ecclesiæ. | Hætam feliciter sociatæ virtutes |  
 Confestim Illum, quem requiris, indicant, | Cujus marmor exhibet  
 incisum nomen. | Illum Angeli laeto ore in caelis excipiunt, |  
 Illum Homines in terris imitando | Eidem olim miscantur choro.

## 14.

In memory of Thomas and | Stephen sons of Thomas | Aveling  
 and Mary Ann his | wife and grandsous of | Thomas and  
 Elizabeth Aveling | Thomas died 1VLY the 17<sup>th</sup> | in the year 1835  
 aged 33 | years | Stephen died August the | 2nd 1876 aged 72  
 years.

## NORTH AISLE.

## 15.

The family vault | of | Henry Haynes.

## 16.

In memory of | Mary Anne | widow of Charles Boulbee |  
 surgeon of Whittlesey | eldest daughter of | the Rev<sup>d</sup>. Thomas  
 Holdich | and Ann his wife | who entered into rest | on the 8th  
 day of May 1870 | In the 76th year of her age, | The memory  
 of the just is blessed.

## 17.

In affectionate remembrance | of | Alice Haynes daughter  
 of Henry and Mary Haynes | who died Dec 31, 1848 | in the  
 70<sup>th</sup> year of her age | also of | Susannah Wraight | her long  
 tried and valued friend | only child of | Walker and Susannah  
 Wraight | of Wisbeach ; | she departed this life | October 29th  
 1854 | in the 78th year of her age. | Ye are my friends if ye  
 do whatsoever | I have commanded you.

## 18.

Near this spot | rest the remains of | Ann wife of the Rev<sup>d</sup>. Thomas Holdich | rector of Maidwell, in the county of Northampton | who on the 20<sup>th</sup> day of Feb<sup>r</sup>. 1806, in the 36th year of her age | was called to meet her God. | Her three surviving children | as a testimony of their affection | have erected this monument to her memory.

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## 19.

In memory of | Henry Haynes | sixty years deputy Lieutenant of the | Isle of Ely | born April 21<sup>st</sup> 1782 died April 11<sup>th</sup> 1864 | also Mary Ann his wife | daughter of Robert and Sarah Hotchkin | died Dec 2<sup>nd</sup> 1849 aged 73 years | also | nine of their children | five sons and four daughters | also | Sarah, relict of Robert Hotchkin, | of Tixover, Rutland | died June 11<sup>th</sup> 1828 aged 73 years | Four surviving children | have erected this tablet | in affectionate remembrance.

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## SOUTH AISLE.

## 20.

Sacred to the memory of | John Smith gentleman | and Eleanor his wife | the beloved and lamented parents | of Major Gen<sup>l</sup> Sir H. S. W. Smith Bart. G.C.B. | By whom in dutiful and grateful remembrance | of all he owes to their early care and affection | this tablet is erected | John Smith died Sept. 2<sup>nd</sup> 1843 | at the advanced age of 86 | Eleanor Smith who was the eldest Daughter | of the Rev<sup>d</sup>. George Moore | died Dec 12<sup>th</sup> 1814 aged 54 years.

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## 21.

This monument was erected | and this chapel restored in 1862, by public subscription | to the memory of Lieutenant General | Sir Harry G. W. Smith, baronet, of Aliwal | Knight grand cross of the most honourable order of the Bath | Colonel of the 1<sup>st</sup> battalion Rifle brigade | He entered the 95<sup>th</sup> regiment in 1805 | served in South America, Spain, Portugal, France | North



America, the Netherlands, India | and at the Cape of Good Hope  
 | of which he was governor and commander in chief from 1847  
 to 1852 | and on the Home Staff to 1859 when he completed a  
 most gallant | and eventful career of 54 years constant  
 employment | He was born at Whittlesey 28th June 1788 | and  
 died in London 12th October 1860 | Within these walls he  
 received his earliest education | and in the cemetery of his native  
 place his tomb bears ample record | of the high estimation in  
 which his military talents were held | by his friend and chief the  
 great Duke of Wellington | Coruna, Busaco, Fuentes de onoro,  
 Ciudad Rodrigo, Badajoz, Salamanca | Vittoria, Pyrenees, Nivelle,  
 Nive, Orthez, Toulouse, Waterloo, | Maharajpore, Ferozeshuhur,  
 Aliwal, Sobraon, South Africa | O Lord in thee have I trusted, let  
 me never be confounded.

## 22.

In loving remembrance of George Moore Smith | youngest son  
 of | Charles Smith & Mary his wife | born Sept XXI  
 MDCCCXXIV | Died June VII MDCCCLXX | Looking for the  
 Mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ | unto eternal life.

## 23.

Sacred | to the memory of | Fredk. Bowker | Capt 109<sup>th</sup>  
 Regiment | who departed this life | August 6th 1869 | aged 29  
 years | Deeply regretted by his brother officers | by whom this  
 tablet was erected.

## 24.

In | memory of | Capt H. C. Bowker | Royal Marines | Died  
 Oct 22nd 1870 | aged 32 | This tablet was erected | by his brother  
 officers as a mark | of their affection and esteem.

## FLOOR OF NAVE.

## 25.

The | family vault of | Henry Lawrence | Maydwell.

26.

The family vault | of the | Rev. Geo. Moore | Vicar of the  
parishes | of Whittlesey.

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FLOOR OF SOUTH AISLE.

27.

John son of John and Margaret T. Johnson | died Feb. 25th  
1807 aged 16 years | Margaret wife of John Johnson | died April  
9th 1807 aged 47 years | John husband of Margaret Johnson |  
died Dec 26th 1820 aged 60 years.

28.

The | family vault of | Thomas Moore.

29.

The | family vault of | John Smith.

**79.—The Rectors of Croyland since the Dissolution of  
Monasteries.**

A.D.

- 1589 Thomas Crowland, alias Parker. | “Appointed to serve the  
Cure of Crowland & to have for his labor therein £10  
& a chamber there called the master of the works  
office.” The revenues of this Abbey at the Dissolution  
of Monasteries, £1217 5s. 11d.
- 1561 Syr Thomas Salkyld.
- 1576 Thomas Fairechild. Buried 27th December, 1589.
- 1589 Robert Chapman.
- 1591 John Williamson.
- 1592 Robert Chapman. | In 1605 the Parsonage was appro-  
priated without a Vicarage. Mr. Auditor Conniers was  
the patron. The number of Communicants, 304.
- 1624 Augustine Bracker.
- 1640 William Styles. | Also Warden of Browne’s Hospital,  
Stamford. In 1648 the Rector joined the Royalists  
and acted as a Captain. He escaped when Dr. Hudson  
was murdered at Woodford House.

- 1654 15th September, Richard Lee.—“Presented to the Rectory of Crowland by Robert Richmond and Robert Southwell, patrons thereof.”
- 1654 6th December, John Gyles.—“Presented by Valentine Walton, the patron thereof.”
- 1655 4th April, Richard Lee.—“Presented by His Highness, Oliver Cromwell, Lord Protector of the Commonwealth of England, & the patron thereof.”
- 1671 Nov. 6th, *Henry Perne*.—Instituted on the presentation of Robert Southwell. 1681, Prebendary of Lincoln.
- 1722 July 7th, *Culpepper Butcher*.—Thomas Hackworth and Thomas Orby, patrons.
- 1724 *Barnaby Gooche*. Inducted by Rev. McNeeve, Vicar of Weston. Buried 24th October, 1730, near the Altar.
- 1730 5th December, *Jeames Benson*. Patron, Steverly Butler, of St. Georges the Martyr, County of Middlesex. Value of the benefice, £80. Buried 26th March, 1761, near the Altar.
- 1761 26th May, *William Sandiver*.—Patron, Thomas Orby Hunter. Buried 1st June, 1762, near the Altar.
- 1762 9th August, *James Thompson*.—Instituted on the presentation of Martha Butler. Buried 10th Nov., 1766, near the Altar.
1767. 13th Feb., *Moor Scribo*. Patron, Thomas Orby Hunter. Value of the benefice, £34 16s. 4d. Buried 18th July, 1808, near the Altar.
- 1808 28th Sept., *James Blundell*.—Patron, James Whitsed. 1810, Present Rectory built by subscription. The Rev. J. Blundell was also Vicar of Whaplode Drove. Buried 28th March, 1834, within the Altar rails.
- 1834 17th Sep., *John Bates*. Patron, the Marquis of Exeter. Buried 17th Dec., 1883, near the north-east pier of the old Nave.
- 1884 4th January, *Thomas Henry Le Bœuf*. 1887, present Rectory enfranchised.

REV. T. H. LE BŒUF, Croylaud.

80.—**Abraham Gill, Intruding Minister of Manea.**—Many readers of *Fenland Notes and Queries* have no doubt seen or heard of Defoe's celebrated pamphlet—"The Shortest way with Dissenters." But perhaps few have seen another written by him, entitled, "The Experiment or the Shortest way with Dissenters exemplified in the Case of Abraham Gill, a Dissenting Minister in the Isle of Ely," published in 1705. That and "An Answer," in 1707, supposed to be written by the Rev. Hugh James, rector of Upwell and Welney, contain information very interesting to lovers of Fen history. The object of Defoe's pamphlet was to show the various persecutions Gill was subjected to by the Church party, because he being a Clergyman of the Church of England went over to the Dissenters. It appears that Gill was Curate of Coveney and Manea about 1696, and officiated at both places about two years, he then went to Welney. Defoe says, "In this Chapel Mr. Gill continued about seven years, conforming in all things to the usage of the Church of England, but in course of time he began to omit several parts of the service, until at last, his scruples increasing, he wholly omitted the Common Prayer, applying himself only to the pulpit, and conceiving he was not under equal obligations as if preaching in a Parish Church, the Chapel he preached in being wholly independent, a privileged place, and in the power of the people." It seems Gill was first committed to Cambridge Gaol, or as it says, The Tolbooth Gaol, whence he was removed to Norwich Gaol, charged with Felony, Forgery, Trespass, Contempt, and other high crimes and misdemeanors, but he was discharged at the Assizes. In 1704 he was brought up by warrant to Wisbech, charged with breeding disturbances in the parish by a Conventicle, and was committed to Gaol at Wisbech for forging a License and preaching in a Conventicle; he was there imprisoned or enlisted for a soldier, and taken to Cambridge with others, where he was arrested for debt. There are several affidavits and testimonials in his favour, amongst others, this from Manea, signed by ten parishioners:—"That they have known Mr. Abraham Gill now a Minister of a Dissenting Congregation at Upwell, this ten or twelve years or thereabouts. He was our

Minister for about two years, and well settled in our Parish with his wife, who lived together very comfortably and peaceably. He was able and diligent in his teaching, he was no drunkard nor swearer, and lived a pious life and conversation amongst us ; and these deponents do further say, that, to their knowledge the said Gill never had two wives living at one time, but that he married his now wife after his former wife's decease." "The Answer" takes a very different view of the affair. From that it seems that Gill was the son of Robt. Gill, of Rivington, Lancashire, and gives details of several scandalous things done by him in Lancashire before he came to the Fens. It then goes on to say he brought a woman with him, not his wife, when he came to Coveney, "an obscure village in the Isle of Ely." After he had removed to Welney it goes on to say, "Thus this bold impostor lived in bare-faced wickedness at Welney an obscure corner of the world fitted for his villanies, making havock of poor souls, and revelling without control in all enormities that were for his pleasure or profit ; made nothing to forge Licenses 40 or 50 in a year ; married all persons who came to him from all places of the nation night and day ; for which this lawless wretch was well known, and noted in all the adjacent Counties." "Mr. James finding all admonitions and reproof ineffectual, prosecuted him at Norwich, and as was suspected found his Orders forged, for which they gave him several Citations for appearance, but he never showing his face in Court, was, at last excommunicated for forgery and other enormous crimes, from which excommunication he was never absolved, and the Chapel doors were shut against him." There is a copy of the Orders supposed to be signed by the Bishop of Chester, also a letter from the Bishop of Chester to the Bishop of Norwich : "My Lord, Abraham Gill was not ordained by me either Priest or Deacon. I have carefully examined my Ordination Register, and find no such name as Gill there, nor any name like it ; besides there are many things in the forged instrument that plainly discovers the imposture." It then enumerated them, and finishes with, "I hope your Lordship has secured the rascal, and will make him a public example. Chester,

Aug. 19: 1702. N. Cestriens." Besides other things charged to Gill he was accused of being a swearer; to confirm this, an affidavit was sworn at March, Feb. 5th, 1707, by John Walsham, to this effect, "That some time ago being at Stow Fair in Norfolk, a Place near adjoining the said Isle, he the Deponent went into a Booth in the said Fair, with an Horse-courser with whom he had business, and that soon after, the said Abraham Gill also came into this Deponents Company in the said Booth, not then knowing the Deponent, as he verily believes; and saith also that during the time of his the said Gill's being in this Deponents company, the said Gill swore divers Oaths in a Customary-way of Swearing, without any Provocation; at which this Deponent was very much scandalized, the said Gill appearing in a Clergyman's Habit, and afterwards took an opportunity to rebuke him for it, at which the said Gill did not seem to be in any way concerned." After reading the two pamphlets, I think any impartial person must come to the conclusion that Defoe was not a very truthful writer, and that Gill was a gross impostor. I have lately come into possession of an old Church Bible, most probably the one used in Manea Chapel in Gill's time, as I find on the first leaf, written in a good bold hand, "Abra. Gill Curate 1696"; underneath this, in a different hand, "a piget et pudet"; then in Gill's writing, "Edward Burch Chapelwarden in the year 1691, and built the Pulpit and desk though much ag<sup>t</sup>: the consent of many of the Rich-Inhabitants yet he carried on the good act: sic. test. Abra Gill"; under this, in another hand, "Monstru Horrenda." This paragraph of Gill's, written in the Bible, gives an insight into his character, and the remarks made by some of his successors show that they will not believe in his goodness. There is a review of the two Pamphlets in "Wilson's Life and times of Defoe," and any one not being able to see the Pamphlets had better read the review, as it goes further into details.

W. W. GREEN, Manea.

81.—**Altering Surnames.**—As an instance of the manner in which names get quite altered by use in the course of years, it may

be mentioned that in the town of Ramsey, Sarah Fitzjohn is unknown, she is now "Sallie Figgins," and Elizabeth Allpress is also changed into "Betsy Press." Cases have been heard of in this district where a country fellow at his marriage has signed the church register in the name he has always been called by but which is in reality only an abbreviation.

D.F.D., Ramsey.

82.—Notes on Croyland, No. 2.—(No. 68, Part III.)—Very many of our Lincolnshire Church windows were formerly richly adorned with shields of arms of those families who either owned the manor, members of whom were benefactors or had sepulture therein. Col. Gervase Holles, whose family resided at Grimsby, just before the civil war, took notes of such as he saw, and which are comprised in the Harl. M.S., 6829, Brit. Mus., and of which unfortunately for us little remains now to be seen, and in too numerous instances the folios of Holles are the sole remaining record. Our venerable Abbey Church (would some man of wealth, as in days of old, ere it be too late to save it from entire ruin, come down "handsome," and thus leave a noble example that others might "please copy":) windows just before Cromwell stormed the place, 9th May, 1643, contained some forty armorial shields, thirty-eight of which are beautifully reproduced in their proper colors in the "margint" of the M.S., fol. 239, which I now append retaining the original mode of spelling.

Fenestre.

G. 3 Keyes or ...	...	...	...	...	—
B. 3 Crosses Portate arg.	...	...	...	...	—
Lozengy or and G.	...	...	...	...	<i>Croun</i>
Lozengy Sa and Ermyne	...	...	...	...	<i>Patten</i>

Empaled : Qterly France and England

G 2 Barres betw. 6 Martlets or.

G. 3 Crosses botany	...	...	...	...	—
G. A Crosse Patonce or.	...	...	...	...	<i>Lalymer.</i>
G. Crosse Crusilly Fitchy a lion ramp arg.	...	...	...	...	<i>La Warre.</i>
G. a bende and 2 Bendlets above	...	...	...	...	<i>Grelle</i>

Lozengy Or and G. ... ..	<i>Crown</i>
Or. a Saltier engrayled sa ... ..	<i>Botetorte</i>
Qterly :—Arg a cheife G over all a Bend G ... ..	<i>Crumwell</i>
Chequy Or and G a cheife Ermyne...	<i>Taleshale</i>
Barry of 6 pieces Arg and B in cheife 3 } Lozenges G. a mullet difference }	<i>Fleming</i>
B a Bend Or ... ..	<i>Scrope</i>
Arg a fesse G in cheife 3 Torteauxes ... ..	<i>Devereux</i>
Arg. a chevron betw. 3 Martlets Sa ... ..	—
Sa. a Frett Arg. ... ..	<i>Harington</i>
Qterly :—Sa. a Crosse engrayled Or ... ..	<i>Willoughby</i>
G. a Crosse Molin Arg.	
Arg. a Crosse Molin Sa ... ..	—
Arg. a Saltier G. ... ..	—
B a Saltier Arg... ..	—
Qterly :—Arg. a crosse engrayled G betw. } 4 Waterbougets Sa ... .. }	<i>Bourchier</i>
G. Billetty Or. a Fesse Arg. ... ..	<i>Louaine</i>
Qterly : G and Or a Mullet in y <sup>e</sup> 1 <sup>st</sup> q <sup>ter</sup> Arg. <i>Vere</i>	
B. an Estoyle Arg ... ..	—
Empaled : B an Estoyle Arg ... ..	—
Or a Chevron G on a Border	
B 8 Myters Or ... ..	<i>Stafford, Epus</i>
Arg a fesse G. betw 3 Poppin } Jays Vert ... .. }	<i>Lumley</i>
B, a Chevrer betw. 3 Garbes Or ... ..	—
G. a Saltier Arg. ... ..	<i>Nevile</i>
Qterly : Bourchier Louaine ... ..	{ <i>Bourchier E. of Essex.</i>
Qterly : France Semy and England and } Border Arg ... .. }	—
Qterly : France Semy and England a } label of 3 Ermyne ... .. }	—
Qterly : France Semy and England a } label of 3 Arg. ... .. }	—
Qterly : France Semy and England on a } Border B 8 Floure de Lize Or }	—



Arg. a chevron betw. 3 Gryphons heads } erased G ... .. }	<i>Tilney</i>
G 3 Water bougets Ermyne ... ..	<i>Roos</i>
Arg. 2 Barres and a Canton ... ..	—
G. a Crosse Patonse Or. a Border Arg ...	—
G. a Fesse betw. 6 Fleur de lize Arg ...	—
G. Bezanty a Canton ermyne ... ..	<i>Zouch</i>

Holles did not confine himself merely to note the armorial windows as then extant but left us also a record of the inscriptions on the bells:—

In Multos annis resonet campana Johannis  
Sum rosa Pulsata mundi Maria Vocata  
Hec Campana beata Trinitate Sacra.  
Campang.

JUSTIN SIMPSON, Stamford.

**83.—Rood Loft Piscina at Maxey.**—Mr. Littlehales should not have inserted a comma after “Rood Loft,” when noting a curiosity in Maxey Church. The Rood Loft has long disappeared, but a piscina remains above the nave arches on the south side, shewing that there was an altar in the Loft. Rood Loft piscinas are very rare. There are probably not a dozen in England.

W. D. SWEETING, Maxey Vicarage.

**84.—Abbots of Ramsey.**—The will of John Lawrence “de Wurdebois,” or de Werdebois, “Abbot of Ramsey, was dated 1511, and he died the year after, leaving his Nephew, William Lawrence, (son of John Lawrence, of Ramsey, who died in 1538) his Executor. William was Sheriff for Cambridge and Hunts., and died 1572, leaving to his son Henry Lawrence, of St. Ives, his armour, all his silver plate which had been left to him by his uncle, the abbot, and the iron chest in the library containing papers and evidences.” This Henry Lawrence was the grandfather of Henry, the President of Cromwell’s Council, and ancestor of the Lawrences, Barts., now extinct, and the Lawrences of Jamaica. What further is known of this abbot, or of the Lawrences, of Warboys?

N. EDIS, Stamford.

**85.—Fenland Superstitions.**—S.E.'s account of the flat bottle containing "pins stuck into a dark substance," furnishes folklore-students with an example of the degenerate form of blood-sacrifice still prevailing in England. We learn from old legends that long after paganism perished, the hideous custom of interring living beings beneath the threshold or hearth-stone, or within the wall of of a new building, was kept up among our ancestors, and modern travellers inform us that the habit of securing a homestead against evil influences, by burying a human being, or animal, in the most sacred part of a house, is practised by many savage races down to the present day. Christianity at length succeeded in banishing the barbarous custom from civilized Europe, but it cannot be doubted that the heart of a bird or small mammal stuck full of pins, which is so often found under the fire-place, or foundation of old houses, is a substitute for the living sacrifice once offered to the powers of darkness with the intention of averting misfortune from the building.

MABEL PEACOCK, Bottesford Manor, Brigg.

**86.—Horkey.**—I have often heard this term applied to a social gathering in the Ely and Littleport district. After the potato crop is got in a "potato horkey" is held to celebrate the event, very much in the same way as a harvest home supper is held. Can anyone explain the origin of the term?

T.V.W., Wisbech.

**87.—The Parish Church of St. Mary, Whaplode.**—Considering the mass of local history which centres around the old parish churches of the country, it is surprising that the history of so many of them still remains unwritten. This, however, can no longer be said of the Parish Church of St. Mary, Whaplode, for the indefatigable antiquary, Mr. W. E. Foster, F.S.A., has taken the matter in hand, and has produced a fascinating volume. Without being bulky, it says all that need be said, and the only regret is that the history of every other Fenland Church is not equally well written. To Fenmen especially Mr. Foster's little work will be most acceptable. Elliot Stock is the publisher.

**88.—Monumental Inscriptions in St. Margaret's Church.  
Lynn, No. 2.—(No. 61, Part III.)**

**13.—CHANCEL FLOOR.**

H. S. E. | judetha filia sola | Sethei Hawley aldermani | uxor  
charissima Johannæ Selve gen' | quæ nobis decessit | xxvii<sup>o</sup> die  
Nov Anno Dni | MDCLXXV Ano atatis | xxviii<sup>o</sup> | Here lyeth the  
Body of | JOHN EDIS Gent | Who died the 18<sup>th</sup> of Aug' 1731 |  
Aged 48 years | Also 3 of his Children. |

**14.—CHANCEL FLOOR.**

Here Lieth | Elizabeth Late Wife | of M<sup>r</sup> Will<sup>m</sup> Cremer of  
Kings Linn | Buried the 6<sup>th</sup> October | 1680 | Also Alice y<sup>e</sup> 3<sup>d</sup> wife  
of y<sup>e</sup> aforesaid | Will<sup>m</sup> Daughter of Will<sup>m</sup> Hart Gent | She died  
y<sup>e</sup> 30<sup>th</sup> of Apr : 1700 Aged 44 yeares. |

[Arms : 3 wolves' heads erased, on a chief, 3 cinquefoils,  
(Cremer) impaling ; ——— .]

**15.—CHANCEL FLOOR.**

Percienal Fil. Tho : & | Sus : Fysh |

Natus Aug : 19 { 1681 |  
Ob : Sept : - - }

Osstendunt Ferris Hunc. | tantum Fata nee ultra | Esse Siunt |

**16.—FLOOR OF SOUTH CHAPEL.**

Mary Keble Widdow | y<sup>e</sup> 3 Daughter of | Ho. Lone of Beccles |  
in Suff : Esq. died y<sup>e</sup> | 16 of Jan : 1693 | Aged 41 |

**17.—CHANCEL FLOOR.**

Hic Sepulti iacent | E Liberis Samuelis Brown Gen<sup>ti</sup> --Et Maria  
Uxor is ejus | Samuel xviii | Aprilis 1698 | Benjamin xxvii  
Augusti 1699 | Catherina xi Augusti 1701 | Alicia xiii Maii  
1705 | Infantuli | Etiam Gulielmus xxvii Decembris 1709 |  
pene Brannis |

## 18.—FLOOR OF SOUTH CHAPEL.

Godfridus Wyldbore | Pharmacopæus | Latrinae Societatis |  
 qui mortalibus dni | Saluti feram | . . . orti tandem Herbam  
 dedi | Quam in re Medicâ | Musicâ et Poetâ | Palmam meruit |  
 Secum tulit | Anno { Dni 1704 |  
 { Ætat : ——— |

[Arms : A fess between 2 wild boars passant. Crest : a boar's  
 head erased. Motto : "Vince terpsum."]

## 19.—PARTLY UNDER SEATS IN SOUTH CHAPEL.

. . . . . ne Lirtell { Nat. 24 Jan. 1710 |  
 { Denat. 18 Jan. 1713 |  
 . . . . . Lirtell { Nat. July 8 1715 |  
 { Denat. Oct. 9 |  
 . . . arah Lirtell { Nat. Jan. 11. 1717 |  
 { Denat. Mar. 23. 1722 |

## 20.—PARTLY UNDER SEATS IN SOUTH CHAPEL.

. . . . . | The prison opened Thou set  
 free | Then Satisfaction full shal . . | Psal . . . . | My  
 hope in Christ . . ein is sure | as graven in marble to endure |  
 . . 25 Phil. 3. 21 | Alleluia | For Christ who lives victorious |  
 Such change shall give most glorious | By pious hope first changed  
 be | That we y<sup>t</sup> blessed hope may see. |

[Capitals.]

## ON THE CHANCEL SCREEN.

[Now divided and part on North and South side of Choir  
 are these inscriptions.]

Henricus Rosas | Anno Dni 1622 | . . . Anno Dni 1622  
 Thoma : Carrow | et Thoma : Robinson ædilibus | Beati pacifici  
 Regna Iacobus | Tho. Gurlin Maior. | . . | E.R. R.C. L.R.  
 1584.

89.—Buried Upright at Soham.—Can anyone furnish particu-  
 lars of the parishioner of Soham, "buried upright at his stools  
 end," referred to by Mr. Littlehales. J. JOHNSON, B.A.





GAINSBOROUGH'S PICTURE OF MASTER  
HEATHCOTE, 1773.

90.—**The Heathcotes of Conington Castle.**—The following article—and illustration on the opposite page—appeared in the *Boy's Own Paper* of November. The article is from the pen of the late Cuthbert Bede :—

“Gentle reader of the *Boy's Own Paper*, how do you like the dress of the little boy of whose portrait an engraving is here given?”

To which question I can imagine the quick response, “You don't mean a boy, but a girl?”

To which I should reply, “I mean precisely what I said—a little boy—of whom this is the portrait by that celebrated artist, Thomas Gainsborough, B.A., who is unrivalled (at least, I think so) as a portrait and also a landscape painter; and in this lovely picture you have him at his very best in both styles.”

“But, surely!” persist my boy friends—“surely you are under some mistake, and this painting is the portrait of a girl? Look at the low-cut white frock descending to the ground, and barely revealing one scarlet shoe; look at the long, curling, chesnut hair, cut and trimmed like that of a girl; look at——”

“Quite so!” I say, abruptly interposing, “Nevertheless, the painting is of a faithful representation of a boy; and it shows how a little lad of five years old was dressed rather more than a century ago—for Gainsborough painted this picture in the year 1773.

“The portrait is that of Master Heathcote, of Conington Castle, Huntingdonshire. He was the grandson of Sir John Heathcote, who purchased Conington estate 1753, from the heirs of Sir Robt. Bruce Cotton, who was the founder of the Cottonian Collection in the British Museum, and was of kin to James I., who always addressed him as ‘cousin’ when he went to court. Sir Robt. Bruce Cotton, Bart., was also, of course, cousin to the hapless Mary, Queen of Scots; and when Fotheringhay Castle was demolished after the death of her son James I—who, so far from destroying the castle, according to vulgar tradition, had got as much profit as he could out of it by letting it successively, to three noblemen—Sir Robert transferred to Conington the pillars

and arches of the banqueting hall, in which the tragedy of Mary's execution was performed. These pillars and arches, instead of being inside the castle, as at Fotheringhay, are now on the outside of Conington Castle, the windows of the various rooms on the ground-floor being within the arches ; some of them enclosing the dining-room where now hangs Gainsborough's portrait of Master Heathcote. In the bedroom over the dining-room is a curious portrait of Mary, Queen of Scots ; and, in the Church—which is only a few yards distant—is a richly carved abbot's chair, from which she is believed to have risen at that last supreme moment when she began to disrobe, in order to submit herself to the axe of the executioner. Both the chair and the portrait were exhibited in the very interesting collection of Mary Stuart relics gathered together at Peterborough in the year 1887—the tercentenary of her execution. So you see that Conington Castle had some connection with Fotheringhay Castle.

“The Sir John Heathcote, the grandfather of this girl-like boy, was the son of Sir Gilbert Heathcote, who was a man of considerable distinction. He was one of the founders of the Bank of England, and was the last Lord Mayor of London who rode on horseback in the procession on Lord Mayor's Day. He was the original of Steel's ‘Sir Andrew Freeport,’ of ‘The Spectator’ ; and he was mentioned by three poets, Bramble, in his ‘Letter,’ Dyer, in his ‘Fleece,’ and Pope, in his ‘Imitation of Horace,’ who has the line—

“‘Heathcote himself, and such large-acred men.’

“The head of the family is now Lord Willoughby de Eresby, whose favourite seat, Normanton Castle, Rutland—visited by the Prince and Princess of Wales, and many other members of the Royal Family—is described by Dyer in these lines—

“‘And such the grassy slopes and verdant lawns  
Of beauteous Normanton, health's pleasing haunts,  
And the beloved retreat of Heathcote's leisure.’

“A fine three-quarter length portrait of Sir Gilbert Heathcote, who was created a baronet in 1733, and is buried in Normanton, hangs over the side board, in the dining-room of Conington Castle, being separated from Gainsborough's Master Heathcote, by



a large full-length presentation portrait, by Sir Francis Grant, P. R. A., of John Moyer Heathcote, Esquire, the eldest son of the Master Heathcote, of the picture. As Mr. Heathcote was born in 1800, his age 'goes with the century,' though you would not believe it, to see his active habits, and to watch him still enjoying his favourite relaxation of out-door water-colour painting from nature, in which he has been a skilled artist all through his long, industrious, and most useful life, rivalling his old master and friend, De Wint."

"Yes," interposes the gentle reader; "I have a copy of his book 'Fen and Mere,' written and profusely illustrated by himself, dealing with the drainage of old Whittlesea Mere, once so beloved by wild-fowlers, fishermen, butterfly collectors, yachts-men, and skaters—sports and pastimes of which the author-artist could say 'quorum pars magna fui.' It is a most interesting work, and has saved for posterity a true record, by pen and pencil of the scenery of the largest lake to be found between London and Windermere, up to the year 1850, when it was drained off the face of the earth. It must have been one of the happy hunting-grounds of Gainsborough's Master Heathcote."

"I will acknowledge to you, that the picture is always taken, by a stranger, as the portrait of a girl; and that when the stranger asks, 'Whose is the portrait?' and its owner replies, 'My father,' the stranger at once observes "You mean your mother!" and, like you, can scarcely be persuaded that the girl-like figure represents a boy who lived to place the initials M.P. after his name. This Master Heathcote was born in 1768; he married Mary Ann Thornhill, in 1799; he restored Conington Castle between the years 1800 and 1813, from designs by Cockerell, the grounds being laid out by Lappidge; and he died on Thursday, May 3rd, 1838, aged 70. He left two sons and a daughter. The eldest son married a daughter of Lord Colborne, and, in 1833, made considerable additions to Conington Castle, under the direction of Blore, who was employed for the restoration of the Church.

"And what is the history of this portrait of Master Heathcote?"

"Its History is this. It dates to the period when Gainsborough

considered it advisable to enlarge the provincial reputation that he had gained at Ipswich ; and, acting upon the advice of his friend Thicknesse, had taken lodgings in the newly-erected circus in the City of Bath, when at the height of its fashion, and with the famous Beau Nash, still master of the ceremonies, although then old and feeble, and at the close of his career. Gainsborough soon found many sitters, and it became the fashion to employ him as a portrait painter. He received as much as a hundred guineas for a whole length portrait—a sum that, in those pre-Millais days, was considered most liberal payment. I need not tell you how greatly his pictures have been raised in value since then, and the high prices that they make whenever they are brought to the hammer. Not to mention the famous ‘Duchess of Devonshire’—which was first exhibited at the Academy, in 1783—there was the half-length portrait of Mrs. Hibbert, of Chalfont, which was sold in March, 1885, for the sum of ten thousand pounds. We may judge, therefore, what would now be the value of this large picture of Master Heathcote if its owner should ever be disposed to part with it—a very unlikely occurrence.

“ Well ! Gainsborough had settled in Bath in the year 1760, and had prospered there, and had regularly sent his pictures up to London for exhibition at the Royal Academy and the British Institution ; and, after thirteen years’ residence in the fashionable City of King Bladud, the artist began to consider the advisability of removing to London, the metropolis where he had lived and laboured in humble lodgings in Hatton Garden, working chiefly at low rates for the dealers until he married and removed to Ipswich, being then in his nineteenth year. He now possessed a fortune, and had made his name ; so that, when he left Bath for London in the year 1774, he went to fashionable quarters, and rented the half of Schomburg House in Pall Mall. Among the visitors who arrived at Bath, in 1773, were Mr. and Mrs. Heathcote, of Conington Castle, bringing with them their only child, a boy, named John, five years of age. Their other children had all died from the effects of a destructive sickness that had been raging in various parts of the kingdom ; and the parents had brought

their surviving child to Bath, as being a health resort. On hearing of Gainsborough's fame as a portrait painter, they were naturally anxious to secure a portrait of their son, and they applied to the artist for that purpose. But either from having enough commissions on his hands, or for some other reason, he declined their request. The traditionary story is, that he told them that he 'was visiting Bath for the purpose of recreation,' which must be an error, as he had already been living in the city for thirteen years, getting his living by his brush. Then the parents told him the circumstances of their case, and how their other children had fallen victims to the epidemic, and that one little boy was the only child spared to them, and that they greatly desired to possess his portrait for fear lest he should be taken from them. Then Gainsborough told them that they might bring the boy for him to see. They took him to the studio in the Circus on the following morning; the boy being dressed in a plain white muslin frock, with a blue sash, scarlet shoes, and a black plumed hat—precisely as he is represented in the picture. 'You have brought him simply dressed,' said Gainsborough; 'had you paraded him in a fancy costume, I would not have painted him; now I will gladly comply with your request.' And so the parents obtained their wish, and the portrait of their only child was, in due course, taken from Bath to Conington Castle, where it has ever since remained, with the exception of one visit it paid to London to an exhibition of the old masters. It has never been engraved; and I have made the accompanying sketch by permission of its present owner the eldest son of the Master Heathcote here depicted."

91.—**Will of a Peterborough Citizen.**—The following will of a citizen of Peterborough, made but a short time before the suppression of the Abbey, dated 15th July, and presented in London, 21st October, 1538, may prove of interest to your readers:—

"July 1538. I Edward Grenehall of Peterborough, co. Northampton. gent. My body to be buried in the church of St. Peter in the Monastery of Peterboro' To the Lord Abbot, 5*l*; to the Prior 10*s*, the three presidents of the said house,

6s 8d ea, chaunter 6s 8d, & to every monk of the house being at my burial, 3s 4d. To the reparations of the parish church of Peterboro' & upholding of the Gilds in the said church, 50s. To the parish church of Paston 3s 4d. To the four houses of the four orders of friars in Staumford 40s, that is 10s. to each house, desiring them to pray for my soul & all christian souls. For a priest to pray in the parish church of Peterboro' for my soul, & for the souls of my wife, father, mother & all christian souls 5l. My executors to put one honest priest into the Gild of St. George & St. James to maintain God's service, to pray for my soul & all the bretheren & sisters of the said gild for one year, & for his salary I give 5l. To my kinsfolk (s) neices Johan & Ellynor Powler, 4l to the one & 10s the other. Nephew Wm Wilson, 40s, neice Jane, the painter's wife, 40s; Edw. Browne, son of the said Jane 53s 4d; cousins Richd. Baylye 40s; & Robt. Pratt of Fiskerton, & to his 2 sons named in Sir Wm Pratt's will 40s. To Eliz. Stroggs, dau. of Thos. S. 3l 6s 8d. To Jane Tomson, 3l 6s 8d.; Geo. Digbyn of Eye, 40s; Wm. Shairshall, of Peterboro', 20s; Christopher, son of my cousin Reginald Grenhall, 3l 6s 8d. To my godsons Edw. Algar, Geo. Quarles, 3l 6s 8d ea, & to each of my other godsons, 12d ea. To Tho. Grenhall of Peterboro' 6s 8d. To my wife, Margaret, 60l, plate & household stuff that was hers before marriage, also the cattle and implements of husbandry in my farm of the Thwartes, a salt seller of silver, all gilte with the cover, and a standing peice of silver which was Master Kyrkehams. To Reginald G my cousin & nephew 66l 13s 4d I will that my exors bestow 26s 8d in repairing of the highway between the grange place called the Sexten barns and the towns end in Peterboro' "towards the wynd mill." Also 26s 8d on the highway at the west end of the town of Glington in the little lane there with the best advice & counsel of the inhabitants. In alms to the poor people of Peykirk & Glington, 4l. To the town of Peterboro' for repairing of the great bridge in the said town 40s." One of the signatory witnesses to the will was Master Thos. Byll, Dr. of Medicine.

JUSTIN SIMPSON, Stamford.

92.—**Fen Drovers.**—The Fen Drovers are black earthy cart-tracks leading from the distant farms to the main road ; they have a beauty of their own in the summer covered as they are with short mossy grass and redundant with forget-me-nots and the pink or lesser cranesbill, and scores of other trailing plants. In December these droves are almost impassible, and the carts that have made the pilgrimage up to the town show clearly they have sunk up to the axle in mud on their journey. An old folk-lore story runs that one man met another on one of these droves and inquired if he had seen a hat. “naw” said the other. “I would not care so much about the hat” explained the first, “but there is a man under that, and a horse under that,” all three having sunk and disappeared in the black oily mud.

D.F.D., Ramsey.

93.—**Bedford Level in 1661.**—Lord Esmé Gordon of Paxton Hall, Hunts., has kindly placed at our disposal a pamphlet which was published in London in 1661. The following is the title :—

“A |relation |of the business now in hand concerning | Bedford  
 “levell | written in a letter | to | a vvorthy member of this  
 “parliament | by a person uninterested more than in his  
 “pub | lick desires to preserve a work so beneficial for | the  
 “Kingdom, and satisfaction of all just inte | rest relating to  
 “it | London, printed in the year MDCLXI.”

The writer commences by stating that on May 6th, 1661, two bills were read in the House of Commons concerning settling the government of the great level, called the Bedford Level. He goes on to speak of Francis, Earl of Bedford, as the first to attempt to drain the Level, and traces the history of the work, in order to prove the Earl of Bedfords's title.

He then proceeds :—“The said Francis and his participants have  
 “the right title, but being hindered for some time by his late  
 “majesty, and after by the commotions of the people, then by  
 “the succeeding wars, by sequestrations, and their inevitable  
 “absence or death, they were disabled in purse, or person, or

"durst not attend its presentation, so that the King being  
 "martyrd, and Francis, Earl of Bedford, formerly dead, and so  
 "many of his participants (as conceive they have a right to  
 "neer a moiety of the 83,000 acres) made incapable or having  
 "not a conscience to act with them, I say William, Earl of  
 "Bedford, (needing no other title but his own as heir to his  
 "father) did (by ensnarement, judging charitably of those that  
 "had but three months before shred the Kingdom into a  
 "commonwealth) suffer his name to be used, in a pretended  
 "act of parliament, dated 29 May, 1649. Wherein were  
 "constituted such subtile laws, and such commissioners and  
 "judges of the Level, as had endeavoured to level all but  
 "themselves ; for in the first place they sold the King's 12,000  
 "acres and then above 30,000 acres of the participants of the  
 "said Earl's father, (being all loyal subjects) and upon their two  
 "titles (as I said) two bills were presented to the house  
 "to be enacted."

The title of the participants claiming under the title of Francis,  
 Earl of Bedford, was voted in with a petition and was read in the  
 House before the other bill. The petition was from Sir William  
 Playters, Knight, (Master for the Earl of Arundel), Sir John Hewet,  
 Bart., Sir William Teringham, Knight, Col. Sam. Sandys, Col.  
 Robert Philips, Col. William Dodson, and others claiming under the  
 original adventurers of the Bedford Level. The petition commences  
 by saying "That whereas there hath been, and is a difference  
 between the adventurers under the Rt. Hon. Francis, the Earl of  
 Bedford, and the intruders under the Rt. Hon. William, Earl of  
 Bedford, the said adventurers under Francis claiming their rights  
 by virtue of a fourteenth part deed and several after laws of  
 sewers, letters patent, and orders of council made in their behalf ;  
 and the said intruders claiming under William by colour only of  
 a law made by the pretended parliament in 1649, and of such  
 unjust disseisin and intrusions." In calling their opponents  
 "intruders" the petitioners said that they did not wish to  
 prejudice the name of Earl William, "or lessen his interest  
 in the fennes," but they meant only those that purchased

the petitioners lands upon the title only of that pretended act for non-payment of taxes, so illegally, unwarrantably (and they say also) unnecessarily imposed." The writer of this pamphlet asked why should not the intruders make restitution, and adds, "I confesse the intruders reply plausibly 'give us our tax money we are out of, and take your lands.' But the petitioners adde to that old maxime that the business of tax is not only an unjust imposition but a subject for cheating; for just when the 80,000 acres were divided into 20 lots, each lot did consist of three sorts of ground, bad, indifferent, and good. Now whilst each lot stood entire in possession of those who first undertook them, it was equal, but being subdivided to several persons, it was unequal that that land should pay a noble per acre which was not worth 9d., and that not above a noble which was worth above a pound. Then as to the opportunity of cheating, it was obvious to every one that if some few of them who ruled the waters did confederate, it were easie to let in water on good grounds, to make them worse, and keep them upon bad, from being better, till the taxes made them weary of them, and (the petitioners say) this will be evidenced in case of one of the intruders who bought as many fennes at 2/6 per acre (the sum not amounting to above two or three hundred pounds) as within a short time were sold for £3, £1, and £5, per acre, so as about £30,000 was made of them. By this act of taxes, Col. Sam. Sandys is deceived of about 7,000 acres (which was conveyed to Trustees for the indemnifying him against great debts, wherein he stood engaged with Sir Miles Sandys) and the Earl of Arundel lost his shares (by employing one to pay the taxes, which suffered them to be forfeited, that there might be an opportunity to purchase them). Something might be added in Crane and Hoblyn's case to the same effect, but I am loath to trouble you with more of these sad truths and any wish that the intruders may not hold Machiavil's maxim that things which are unjustly gotten must be unjustly maintained, hoping that the intruders will prove better principled."

**94.—A Curious Superstition.**—On Friday, May 7th, 1762, died an inhabitant of Whittlesey, and when he was going to be buried, some of his friends noticing that the bottom of the coffin was very wet, raised the lid to see what was the matter, and to their astonishment found in the coffin more than two gallons of strong beer which the man's wife had put in. She explained "That when her husband was alive he loved ale, and she was willing that he should not want it when he was dead."

C. DACK, Peterborough.

**95.—Leland and the Fen Country.**—In "The Itinerary of John Leiland that famous Antiquary. Begunne about 1538," the Author gives a poetical description of every County in England, beginning thus :—

Here sueth the Propertees of the Shryes of Engeland.

The Property of every Shyre

I shall you telle, and ye will here.

This is the account he gives of the Fenland :—

Huntyngdonshire corn ful goode.

Lyncolnshire men ful of myghtys.

Northamptonshire fful of love

Benethe the gyrdyll and noth above.

Northfolk ful of wyles.

Cambrygeshire ful of pykes.

Holend ful of grete dykes.

He finishes up his description with the following quaint phrase

That Lord that for us all dyde dye,

Sa ve all these Shires. Amen say we.

CHARLES DAWES.

**96.—Acre Silver.—Joisse Book, Force Book, &c.**—Can any of your readers give explanations as to the meaning of the above terms, which are to be found in some of the old documents relating to the Fens? In a verdict of the Court of Sewers of 1571, these expressions occur :—The said dyke is to be repaired by **menworks.**" "The common Sewer which ought to be repaired by **Acre Silver.**" "The gate ought to be seured by the landowners



according to the juisse book." "The Radyke called Witham bank." The termination "booth" is also frequently met with, thus "from Antom gowt to danebooth," what is its derivation?

W. H. WHEELER, C.E., Boston.

**97.—Inn Signs:—Dog in a Doublet—Cross Guns.**—Can any reader of *Fenland Notes and Queries* give the origin, meaning, and date of the above signs, which are met with on the North Bank, between Peterborough and Wisbech. *The Dog in a Doublet* sign board is apparently an old painting, better executed than public-house signs in general. In the early part of the last century I find it written *Dog and Doublet*. E.

**98.—Soham Free School.**—The following interesting particulars of this School are furnished to the *Soham Parochial Magazine* by J. R. O. :—

This school was established in 1699, the cost of building being £224 7s. 6½d. There appear to have been two school-masters in 1699, Mr. Morley, who received £10 for half a year's salary due at midsummer 1699, and Mr. Luke Norfolk who received £7 10s. for a year's salary due at the same date. In 1716 the two masters were allowed £45 per annum to be divided equally between them, and 10 shillings per annum to a woman for sweeping the school. And there were apparently two masters till 1749, when Mr. Robert Kent became sole master at a salary of £40 per annum.

Mr. John Aspland was appointed master in 1790 (?). He was a self taught man of rather rough manners and eccentric habits, and had the reputation of being a superior mathematician. He prepared his only son (afterwards the Rev. Isaac Aspland of Pembroke Hall) for the University and with such success that his son received a Fellowship and was afterwards appointed to the living of Earl Stonham. John Aspland was of a musical turn, but as a teacher of languages and general knowledge he had no great skill. He failed to win the affections of his pupils, one of whom reported of him that he was somewhat merciless in the use of a whip, the handle of which served him for a poker. He

was a man of some humour and by his own account rather niggardly. His housekeeper having applied to him for some necessary articles, he replied, "Well, madam, they shall not blame you, I will write your apology and you may hang it up in self defence." He thereupon produced the following lines, which were hung up for the inspection of visitors :

" Be it known to all those  
Who perhaps may suppose  
That this house is not kept very clean,  
Neither mop, brush, nor plow,\*  
Will its master allow,  
Such a niggard scarce ever was seen."

In 1823, Mr. William Warren was appointed to succeed Mr. Aspland at a salary of £60 per annum, such appointment to be terminable by six months notice from a majority of the Feoffees. The scholars were to be taught according to the rules, &c., of the Church of England, and the master was to attend the Parish Church with as many of the scholars as chose to go. No girls were to be taught in the school room, or any boy whose parents were not inhabitants.

**99.—A Guide to the Fenland.**—Mr. S. H. Miller, whose intimate acquaintance with the history of the Fenland is generally recognized, has just issued an excellent little work, giving a short description of every Parish in the Fenland.

**100.—Thorney Volunteer Infantry, 1803—1805.**—In the early years of the century war clouds were gathering thick and fast, and an invasion was threatened. There were two companies of Volunteer Infantry formed at Thorney. The Right Company, under John Wing, Esq., Captain-Commandant, afterwards Lieut.-Col. ; the Left, under Mr. Isaac Pears, Captain. When first enrolled, October, 1803, there were 145 (officers included) in the two Companies. In February, 1805, they had been reduced by ten, owing to resignations and death, while 7 recruits had been added. April 18th, 1804, there were received into Store 6804 Balls, 3780 blank Cartridges, and 630 Flints. The

\* A kind of rough scrubbing brush.

last is an item that looks rather strange after an interval of 85 years. There was a fair amount of firing done considering the numbers. Between June 4th and October 8th, 3324 cartridges were used, and the following may be quoted as a specimen of the practice :—

Aug. 6.	40	shots,	and	only	5	put	in	the	target.
„ 7.	30	„	„	„	7	„	„	„	„
„ 8.	45	„	„	„	10	„	„	„	„
„ 9.	51	„	„	„	11	„	„	„	„

They met to drill between October 1st and January 1st, 30 times ; between January 1st and August, 54 times ; and between August and February 21st, 1805, there were 21 meetings. At regular drill the attendance was good, 117, including the non-commissioned officers, attended 15 and upwards out of a possible 18 meetings between October and Christmas. The following gentlemen supplied waggons and carts for the use of the Volunteers :—

WAGGONS.	CARTS.
Mr. Jno. Brown.	Mr. Jno. Hutton.
„ Jno. Bailey.	„ Robt. Pate.
„ Sampson Barber.	
„ Richard Hodson.	
„ Geo. Maxwell.	
„ Pears.	
„ W. Jas. Smith.	

In a local Journal of 30 years ago, some verses on the Volunteer Movement occur, from which the following is an extract :—

Did not our Fathers in the days of yore,  
 When first Napoleon threatened Albion's shore,  
 Rally round their leader, Thomas (? John) Wing,  
 Unto the nation's Standard nobly cling  
 To defend their homes and Britain's rights maintain?  
 Were they not mustered under Captain Crane?  
 A Noble Stalwart Band, deny it who dares,  
 Were then the Thorney Local Volunteers.

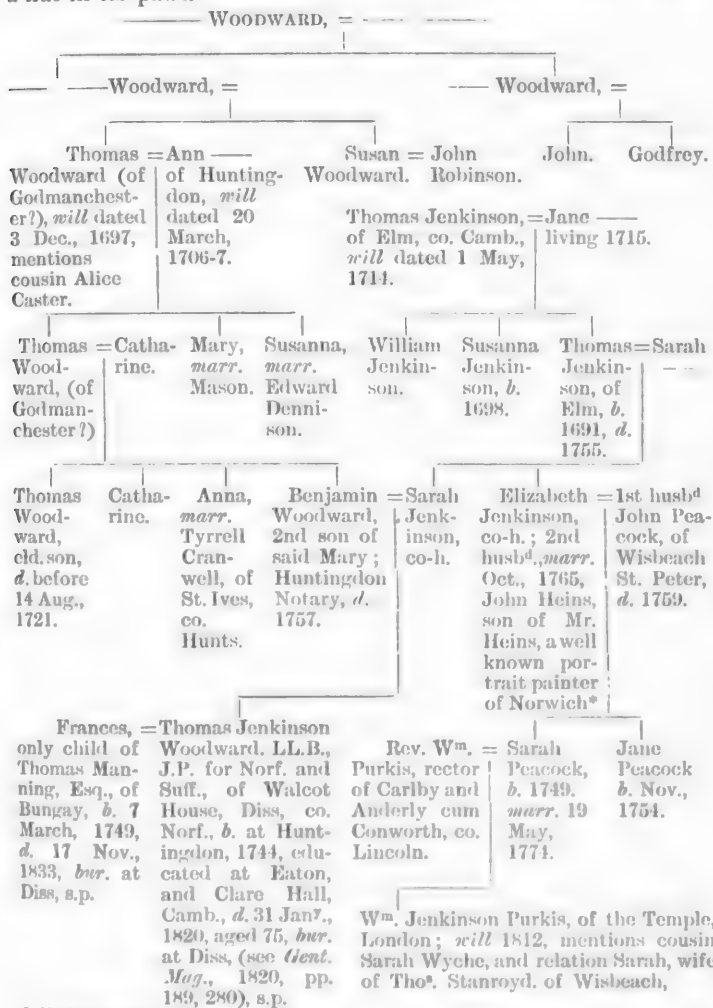
S. EGAR.

101.—**Great Fire at Ramsey, 1731.**—Mr. Thos. Darlow, of Ramsey, has forwarded to us two copies of the *Post Boy* newspaper, of the dates June 23rd and July 2nd, 1731. In the first of these appears a letter signed Edmund Overall, appealing for assistance in behalf of persons injured in consequence of a great fire. He says :—“The place I mean is Ramsey, in the County

of Huntingdon, where on Friday, the 21st of May last, about 120 poor families were burnt out, and thereby reduced to the same necessity with those of Blandford and Tiverton, and are equally objects of pity and compassion. As this poor town is the place of my nativity, I persuade myself I shall be excused in retaining some affection for it . . . . Whatever is sent to me at my house in Bartholomew Close, near Westsmithfield, shall be acknowledged and the distribution published in your paper for their satisfaction." In the paper of July 2nd, Mr. Overall publishes a second list of donations, which he has received, amounting to £7 12s. 0d., and which he states he had handed over to the Mayor and Aldermen of London, to go towards a common fund for relieving all who had suffered from the severe fires at Ramsey, Tiverton, and Blandford.

102.—**Wisbech in 1740.**—The following was published in the *Wisbech Advertiser* of June, 1855:—"Wisbech seems to take considerable starts in improving its appearance once in about every 100 years. We find in 1740 a windmill occupied the centre of the present Market-place; a large pond the centre of the Old Market; and an open sewer ornamented the north side of High Street, which was crossed by three little bridges. Planks were laid from these bridges to the other side of the street for those who had the courage to pass over the loose silt. But in 1750 the streets were first paved, the mill removed, and the pond filled up. A few years after that, the fine old stone bridge was built. The inhabitants at that time began to improve their shops, for in that year (1750) a Mr. Quinton, of St. Ives, put in what was then considered a handsome shop front with glass (the shop windows being generally at that time without glass), and let it to an enterprising young man, a Mr. Stanroyd, at the yearly rent of six guineas. The rates of 1855 were considerably more than the rent of 1750; but the handsome shop front of 1750 was not considered quite up to the taste required for shop fronts of 1855, and this week the chisel and hammer have been busy removing it, to make way for one more in accordance with the present taste, when the bulls' eyes of 1750 will be succeeded by the plate glass of 1855."

103.—Woodward Family, co. Hunts.—The following pedigree notes are derived from family papers. Any additions will be acceptable. ARMS: Or, three bars, Sable: a canton Ermine. Woodward. Quartering: Or, two bars betw. three wolves' heads erased, Gules: Jenkinson. CREST: a squirrel sejant holding a nut in its paws.



\* Norfolk Tour, II., 1131.

C. R. MANNING, F.S.A., Diss Rectory, Norfolk.

104.—**Presentation of Richard Lee to Crowland.**—The following is a copy of M.S. 996, "Augmentation of Church Lands," Lambeth Library, being Oliver Cromwell's Presentation of Richard Lee to Crowland :—

"Crowland

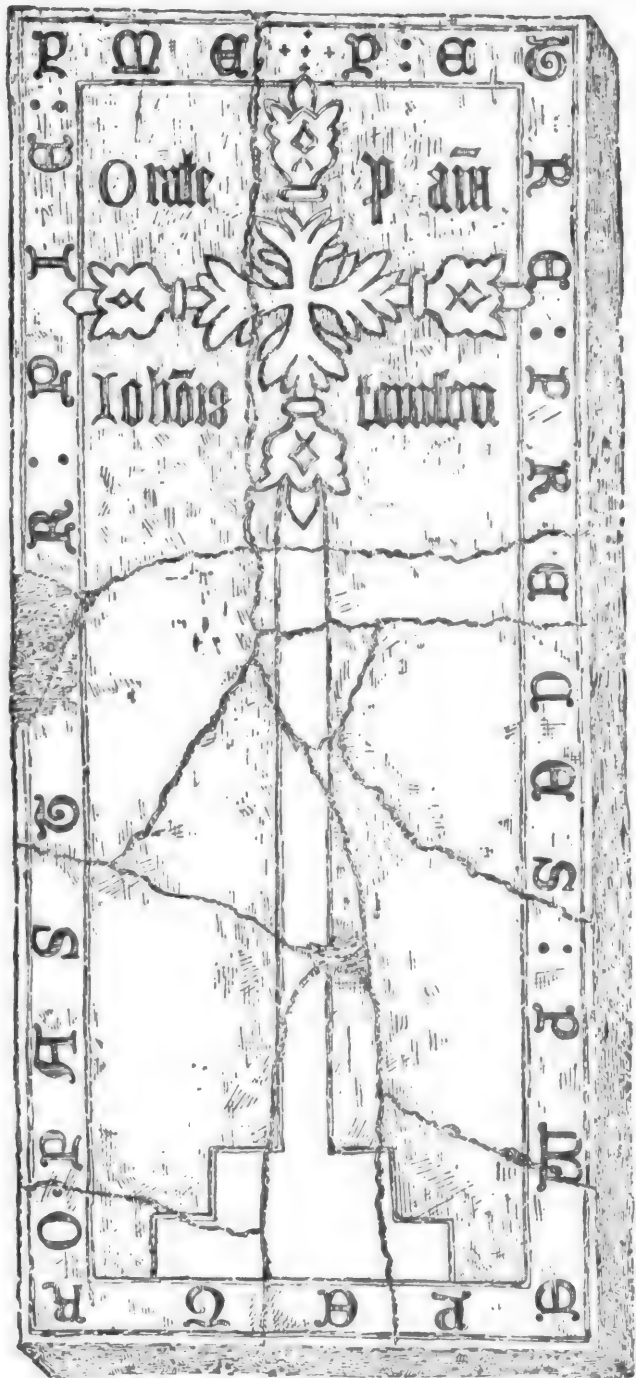
"Richard Lee.

"Know all men by those present, That the 4<sup>th</sup> day of April, 1655, There was exhibited to the Commissioners for approbation of publique preachers a presentation of Richard Lee, Clerke, to the Vicarage or Cure of Crowland in the County of Lincoln made to him by his Highness Oliver Lord Protector of the Common-Wealth of England & the Patron thereof under the great seale of England, Together with a testimony in the behalfe of the said Richard Lee of his holy & good Conversation. Upon perusall & due consideration of the promisses & finding him to be a person qualified as in & by the Ordinance for such approbation is required. The Commissioners above mentioned adjudged & approved the said Richard Lee to be a fit person to preach the Gospell, & have graunted him admission, & doo admitt the said Richard Lee to the Vicarage or Cure of Crowland aforesaid to be full & perfect possessor & Incumbent thereof & doe hereby signify to all persons concerned therein that he is hereby instituted to y<sup>e</sup> profitts & all Rights & dues incident & belonging to the said Vicarage or Cure, as fully & effectually as if he had been instituted & inducted according to any such Laws & Customes as have in this case formerly been made, had or used in this Realme. In Witness whereof they have caused the Common Seals to be here unto affixed & the same to be attested by y<sup>e</sup> hand of the Register by his Highness in that behalfe appointed. Dated at Whitehall the 4<sup>th</sup> day of April 1655.

" Present 22nd March 1655

<p>" Richd, Ledvertby Ben : Needler of Lo. Robert Hussey Robert Smith</p>	<p>  </p>	<p>Richard Fforde Geo : Lee R. Hutchinson of Walton Jo. Walton of Allhallows. L."</p>
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ANCIENT TOMB SLAB DISCOVERED AT CROWLAND.



**105.—Discovery at Croyland Abbey.**—Much uncertainty has hitherto surrounded the History of Croyland Abbey, regarding the dates of the erection of its various parts ; but the extensive excavations made recently, for the purpose of underpinning the foundations, has brought to light many interesting particulars that will aid in forming a reasonable theory for a more consecutively complete record than has hitherto been available. For instance, whenever an opening has been made, at the bottom there was the original foundation—piles driven through the peat into the gravel ; and on these were rough, small stones in layers, with “heavy earth.” This “heavy earth” is the rubbish from the quarries from which the stones were obtained. The peat that remains amongst the piles is compressed into a hard, compact earth as solid as the surrounding materials. To all appearance a portion of the peat was thrown out of the trenches for the foundations, then the piles were driven in, and the other material thrown on until it was brought nearly to a level with the surface of the site, and on this the building was begun.

So far as the present excavations go, no matter whether the superstructure be Norman or Perpendicular, no interference has been made with this early work. So far as relates to the nave, it is fair to suppose that the original plan of Ethelbald's Abbey has not been altered. Everywhere there seems to have been the most reverent care exercised in preserving, in any alteration that has been made, all that it was possible of former buildings. Several portions of Norman or Saxon work have been found encased by the latter buildings ; and the pillars of the Gothic nave have beneath them as foundations, most probably, the entire materials of the former columns, including both base and capital. Several of these foundations in the south arcade of the ruined nave have been examined, and they are all of similar construction, and one of them has been left open, and admirably protected by the Rector.

It is seldom such a confirmation of history is to be found as that which is revealed in a massive stone tablet taken recently from the foundation of the south-west buttress of the tower. In order to show its historic importance it is necessary to refer to the

work done at the Monastery between the years 1405 and 1423. Some time about the former date Abbot Thomas Overton appointed William of Croyland his master-mason ; and on p. 360 of Bohn's edition of *Ingulf's Chronicle* there is an account of extensive works carried out by him, amongst which are included the two transverse aisles of the church with their vaulted roofs, as well as a chapel in honour of the Virgin on the north confines of the choir. He also erected the whole of the lower part of the nave of the church, from the foundations to the laying of the roof, as well as both aisles, together with their chapels.

On p. 393 of the same work the above statements are confirmed, and several particulars added which give interest to the tablet before referred to. The writer of the history states that he "thought it both becoming and opportune to hand down to memory the names of some of those who had given temporal benefits, so that posterity might devoutly repay them by praying for the repose of their souls." Thirteen names are recorded, the last but one being a John Tomson. The west front of the nave had been rebuilt by Abbots Henry Longchamp and Ralph Merske between the years 1190 and 1254 ; and when, in the early part of the fifteenth century, William of Croyland, under the direction of Abbot Thomas Overton, began the rebuilding of the nave, he undoubtedly, first of all, built the two massive buttresses to the west of the front to give it support, the wide-spread footings of which show that they were intended to withstand an extraordinary thrust ; and it was in this wide foundation, at a point considerably below the present surface of the soil (but when it was placed there most likely level with it), that the tablet was found. Apparently it formed part of the foundations of the south wing of the porch that was erected a considerable time afterwards ; but it was the extraordinary spread of the foot of the buttress that gave it that appearance, and it was the unequal pressure caused by the weight of the more recent structure that produced its fracture.

The stone is 7ft. 6in. long, 3ft. 7in. wide, and 8in. thick, and is a fine specimen of Barnack rag. The surface is clean and clear, not in the least worn either by time or weather. The inscription

is as sharp in detail as it was when it left the hands of the mason. What gives it extra interest is the fact that the name inscribed upon it is the same as the donor before mentioned, viz., John Tomson,\* and the sentiment embodied in the top line, "Orate p'ia" lends support to the theory that it is directly connected with the event before referred to, and is a memorial of the works carried out by William.

To add to the evidence on this point, a stone of a similar description is now visible beneath the only remaining portion of the north transverse aisle, which was built by the same person. It is of the same width and thickness, with a marked off margin containing letters exactly like the former. This is marked No. 2, in red ink, on the ground-plan of the Abbey, which is enclosed, No. 1 being the position of the stone described above.

It is impossible to ascertain whether any similar tablet was found in a corresponding position in the south buttress, as the lower part of it was taken down and entirely rebuilt by G. G. Scott, Esq., in 1860, when the west front was restored, and the portion remaining of the south transverse aisle has been altered too much for anything but a mere fragment to remain beneath it. Possibly the examination of the foundations of the north-west buttress of the tower may throw more light on the matter.

The extent of the works carried out by William would have rendered it quite possible for him to have done similar honours to many of his patrons. The west front of the cloisters was rebuilt by him as well as the nave with its north and south aisles. It is also stated that he ordered "two tablets to be prepared by the diligent skill of the sculptors, for the purpose of being erected at the altar of St. Guthlac; and that he might render them more beautiful in appearance he ordered the lower one to be painted, while he had the whole of the upper one gilded." It may reasonably be inferred from this quotation that tablet-forming was popular at this time. The history also states that he com-

\* The Editor of the *British Archaeological Journal* has given his opinion that the slab is of the thirteenth century, and the inscription round the edge is in letters of that period, "Petre preces pro me Petro Pastor pie pro me." It has been adopted at a later period by Jo. Tomson.

pletely rebuilt the refectory house with artistic elegance and the greatest magnificence.

The importance of the discovery of the tablet lies in the fact of its connecting the history with the building by an actual name, and the sentiment of the request, "Orate p' aia," might have been taken nearly direct from the language of the historian. Its size and the style of its execution forbid the thought of its having been put into the position in which it was found in any casual or accidental manner, and probability points to the conclusion that it is one of a series of memorial stones breathing the spirit of the devotion of the Church of the age, and commemorating the names and beneficence of its patrons. A. S. CANHAM, Crowland.

**106.—A Layman's Prayer Book, 1400.**—Mr. Henry Littlehales, whose list of Mediæval Features in Fenland Churches has already appeared in *Fenland Notes and Queries*, has just issued some pages in facsimile from a Layman's Prayer Book in English, about 1400. The facsimiles are preceded by an interesting historical sketch of Mediæval Service Books in England. Rivingtons, London, are the publishers.

**107.—Fenland Parishes in 1340.**—The old records preserved in the Tower of London, the British Museum, and elsewhere, contain a large amount of valuable information with regard to this district in bygone days, and it seems surprising that they have been made so little use of in the compilation of county histories. The series of rolls which contains the names of the principal inhabitants of every ecclesiastical parish in the year 1340, is called "Nonarum Inquisitiones in Curia Scaccarii," (*temp.*: Edward III). It is a record of the amount of the "ninth of corn, wool, and lambs" in each parish, and the names given are those of the inhabitants who certified that the proper sum was returned to the "venditors and accessors in each county." The cause of this levy is too long to be dealt with here, as also is the method of taxation. The names of the following persons were returned for various places in the county of Huntingdon:—

*Somersham.*—Galfred le Forester, John de Eton, Nicholas Edmund, Richard le Heyr, Nicholas Pessok, Hugh de Faliwolle, John de Fliwolle, Henry Eugo, John Stubbard, John Mateshale, Ralph de Bereford, Richard de Wymundle, William the son of Stephen, and John Mayheu.

*Bluntisham.*—John Cok, Robert de Hale, John le Milnere, Robert Stoteville, Robert Laurence, John de Wemyngton, Laurence Stotville, Roger Weringg, Gregory de Aula, Thomas Clici, Reginald Gerveys, and Simon the son of Hugh.

*St. Ives.*—Thomas de Erheth, John Herrof, William Atte Halle, John Raven, Robert Folkes, John Godrych, Richard Gewene, Nicholas Herrof, John in the Wro, Henry le Heyr, Thomas Lefort, and Geoffrey Edward.

*Fenstanton.*—John Luttes, Richard atte Fen, Robert son of Dionis, Thomas son of Roger, John Molle, William West, Walter Crisp, John Elys, Gilbert Owayn, John Eustace, Simon de Weston, and Thoe Manger.

In a future communication I will send the names of the principal inhabitants of other places.

London Hospital, E.

CHARLES DAWES.

108.—**Underwood Family.**—(No. 27, Part I.)—Catharine Cromwell, (bapt. at St. John's, Huntingdon, 7 Feb. 1596-7), sister to the Protector, mar. Roger Whetston, son (supposed) of Jonas, of Barnack, Northants., connected with the Underwoods of co. Cambs. Francis Underwood of Whittlesea, commanded the detachment of Parliamentarians that captured by storm, 6 June, 1648, Woodcroft-house in the parish of Etton, Northants., into which a party of Royalists had thrown themselves and put in a state of defence, under Dr. Michael Hudson, (Chaplain to the King and Rector of Uffington, Lincs.) who was barbarously murdered, and Mr. Styles, Rector of Croyland, who escaped (and afterwards became Warden of Wm. Browne's Hospital, Stamford\*). For this service he

\* 1677. William Stiles, warden, bur. April 24.—*St. Michael's, Stamford, bur. reg.*

1648. Edward Rossiter, by a shott from Woodcroft house received two wounds whereof he presently died June 5 and on the 8th day of this present month was bur. at Etton.—*Etton, Northamptonshire, p.r.*

received the thanks of the House of Commons, and two days after, being a Lieut. Col., was appointed Gov. of Whittlesey and Croyland. On his death, his widow re-mar. Col. John Jones, an Officer in the service of the Parliament and one of the Judges at the King's trial, for which he suffered death at the Restoration. Robt. Whetstone, of Barnack, who died in 1626, (supposed), father to Jonas W., mar. Catharine, sister of Mr. Michael Pickering, (probably identical with, as the par. reg. of St. John's, Peterborough, informs us "Mychaell Pickering, gentleman, slayne by Ihon Norton, gentleman, in a challenge, near Burroughe Berry," and was bur. 23 Sept., 1606) and had issue Ionas Anne, wife of Mr. Richard Heron, of Maxey, and Frances, wife of Mr. Allen King, of London.

JUSTIN SIMPSON, Stamford.

**109.—A Prodigy at Somersham.**—Under date March 16, 1712, the Rev. Daniel Whiston, Curate, writes in the Parish Church Register of Somersham, that Thomas, his son, repeated his Catechism well and distinctly as far as the Sacraments, in the Parish Church with the older children; and on the Sunday following repeated the same and the Sacraments as well, being only of the age of 2 years, 7 months, 21 days. "This," adds the rev. gentlemen, "is a great example of the quickness of his memory and of God's blessing upon the early endeavours of his parents in his religious education."

S. JARMAN, St. Ives.

**110.—Monumental Inscriptions at Willingham, co. Cambs.**  
PARISH CHURCH ST. MARY'S.

All or most of the pre-reformation inscriptions were destroyed in 1643, according to a reference in *Carter's History of Cambridge*.

A slab within the Altar-rails bears this inscription:—

"Here lyeth the body of | Frances wife of James Saywell |  
gent. and daughter of Erasmus | Gainsford of Crowhurst | place  
in Surrey, Esq., and ye | bodies of their five children | Anno  
Domini 1693.

[Arms: Party per pale nebulé or and gu, six martlets counter-changed for Saywell, impaling Gainsford.]

An adjacent stone is inscribed :—

“ Here lyeth the body of | Mary Hare. In Hopes of a | blessed  
Resurrection | She was |y<sup>e</sup> relict of St. John Hare | Esq., and  
daughter of Erasmus Gainsford | of Crowhurst in Surrey, Esq.,  
| shee dyed, Aug. 22, Ano. Dni., 1688 | and left behind her three  
children | very young, viz. :—St. John, Eliza, and | Mary.”

Another slab bears this inscription :—

“ Annie the daughter of | Andrew Meirs, bl. Vicar | of Pemsey,  
in Sussex, and | Sarah his wife dyed Oct. the | 28, 1690 | *Anno*  
*Ætatis suæ*. . . .

[Arms: Hare. A Chevron between three greyhounds pass.  
collared for Gainsford.

There is an important monument with sculptured coat of arms  
to the Frohock family. The inscription is :—

“ In Memory of | Mary wife of Thomas Frohock | who died  
April 6, 1864, | aged 71 years. Looking unto Jesus | also Sarah  
Frohock, who died Nov. 4., 1798 | aged 83 years | S. F. | 1768.

On the floor of the Nave is the inscription :—

“ Beneath this stone lyeth the | earthly remains of William |  
Read who departed this life | March 5, 1814 | aged 77 years.

There are a few interesting monuments in the Baptist Chapel.

In the floor is a slab :—

“ In memory of | the Rev. William Boodger, | 30 years pastor |  
of this congregation, | who died Ma. 8<sup>th</sup> 1781 | aged 67 years |  
also Lethica, | his wife who died, | Oct. 20, 1783 | aged 60 years.”

Another stone is :—

“ In memory of | John Stevens | who 'died April 2 1831 | in  
the 30<sup>th</sup> year of his age.”

On the wall is a tablet inscribed :—

“ Near this place | lie interred the mortal remains | of John  
Rootham | born at | Riseley, in the county of Bedford | Decr. the  
30<sup>th</sup> 1766 | and preacher of the Cross of Christ | in this place 38  
years | His earthly tabernacle was dissolved | Dec. 5, 1827.”

A marble tablet bears the inscription :—

“ Near this place | are interred the remains | of Ellis Munsey,

| 16 years a faithful minister | of Christ | He died Aug. 29, 1845  
Aged 42."

Two other tablets are inscribed :—

"In memory of | Mary, wife of | John Far | who changed time  
for Eternity | September 18, 1822 | aged 25 years."

"To the memory of | Elizabeth Read | the wife of | William  
Read | who died June the XXVIII<sup>th</sup> | MDCCCXVII | aged 58 years.

HERBERT E. NORRIS, St. Ives.

**111.—Lawrence of St. Ives.**—(No. 84, Part IV.)—A John Lawrence is mentioned in the "Valor Ecclesiasticus" or King's Books, compiled in 1534, as being Steward of the Manors of Leningford Abbots and Warboys in Huntingdonshire, as well as of others in the Counties of Cambridge and Northampton. From the same source it also appears that Thomas Lawrence was Steward for St. Ives Priory (which would appear to have been subordinate to the Abbey of Ramsey) at Sawtry Moynes, Upwood, and Great Raveley, in the County of Huntingdon.

CHARLES DAWES.

**112.—Adam Cleypole, or Claypole, of West Deeping.**—The parish register of West Deeping records the burial of Adam Claypole, esq. 23 Jan. 1672(3). This bare fact does not give us any further information than showing from the addition of "esq." to his name that he was a man of position and substance, because at this period the prefix of "Mr." and affix of "esq." were only given to those who had a just claim thereto by reason of wealth or of gentle birth. Adam Claypole was a man of considerable note in his day. His father, of Northboro', also named Adam, was twice married, and had a numerous family. He married first at St. George's, Stamford, Elizabeth Wingfield (whose mother was sister to William Cecil, first Baron Burghley) 30 Sept., 1585, (bur. at Northboro' 7 Nov., 1619), and secondly, at Northboro', Jane Byrd, 25 Sept., 1620. This second lady was, I believe, the only daughter of John Bird of Beynton, co. Northampton, gent., who is named in her father's will dated 21 Aug., 1590, pr. in P.C.C. 15 Aug., 1593 as then being under the age of 18 years. Adam



senr., who d. in 1634, entered the family pedigree in the herald's visitation (Northants.) 1618-19, and from his second match sprung Adam, whose burial is recorded at the commencement of this paper. He was born in 1622, probably at Maxey, for that is where he was baptized in that year, but history has not handed down to us where he received his education. One thing is palpable, he did not imbibe the republican principles of his relative John, (the eldest son of his step-brother John), who espoused Elizabeth (bapt. at St. John's, Huntingdon, 2 July, 1629), the 2nd and favourite daughter of Oliver Cromwell, in 1645-6, (d. 6 Aug., 1658), but on the other hand, followed those of Lady Elizabeth Claypole, who as it is well known had a strong leaning towards the cause and friends of the exiled King, who interceded with her father to save the life of the first Charles.

At the Restoration, while the remains of her kith and kin were subjected to brutality hers were permitted *requiescere in pace* in Henry 7th's chapel, Westminster Abbey. Adam, as before stated, followed a cause that was far from being remunerative, as the following particulars taken from the Royalist composition papers, 2nd series, vol. 1, p. 581, in the Public Record Office will amply illustrate. As "Adam Claypole, Gent., he surrendered himself to Sir John Gell, as by his pass dated that day appears. Took the solemn league and covenant 22 Dec., 1645 before Samuel Gibson, Minister of (St.) Margaret, Westminster, and the negative oath 27th Dec." His fine (as a delinquent) was fixed three days after at 600*l*. From the particulars of his estate furnished to the Commissioners (sitting at Goldsmiths' Hall, London) under his own hand, it appears that he was "seized in fee in possession to him and his heirs of divers messuages, lands, and rents, lying and being in the towns of Gosherton, Surfleet, Moulton, West Deeping, and Tallington, co. Linc., of the yearly value before the troubles 270*l*. Also a rent charge 80*l*. p. an. out of certain marsh grounds of one Mr. Hurlington in Holland in the s<sup>d</sup> county for all which his fine for 2 years value is 640*l*. His personal estate he saith he hath none, is indebted to his two sisters, Jane and Anne for their portions, 1000*l*., but, by

an act done by himself, and produceth not anything to make it appear, he saith he is otherwise indebted in the sum of 800*l*." In his letter to the Commissioners for sequestrators, says, by way of palliation, that for 3 years last past he had been in arms against the parliament for his Majesty under the command of the Lord Loughboro', being then under 21 years of age, and in Nov. last taking notice of the Ordinance of parliament for compounding to come in before the 1st day of Dec. did before that time apply to Col. Gell, Gov. of Derby for a pass to get to London. His estates at Gosberton and Surfleet are charged with the raising of 500*l*. to each of his sisters (Jane, born 1623, the name of the other I have not met with), and his personal estate is not more than 20*l*. at the most. One would reasonably think that this would act as a caution, and lead master Adam to eschew anything and everything in any way approaching to Royalist principles, but not so, his political proclivities subsequently led him into trouble. In the proceedings of the Council of State (*State Papers, Domestic Series, Interreg*), 6 May, 1650, is an order that Mr. Cleypole be taken into custody of Mr. Serjeant (at arms) in order to his examination before a committee of Council; and on the 15 June following Adam Cleypole was by the same authority committed prisoner to Peterhouse upon suspicion of holding correspondence with the enemies of the Commonwealth on 8 July, 1650. I find Adam Cleypoole, of West Deeping, co. Linc., Gent., entered recognizances to the Council of State, himself 1000*l*., two sureties, viz., George Quarles, of Gray's Inn, esq., and Richard Cleypole of (St.) James, Clerkenwell, Gent., 500*l*. each, conditionally that the said Adam Cleypole shall appear at (? before) the Council of State four dayes after warning (or notice) shall be left at his house at West Deeping to answer to what shall be objected against him for the matter for which his liberty is now restrained, and that he shall not act anything which shall be prejudicial to the Commonwealth. Apparently Adam was of good behaviour for a season, as I find nothing recorded against him—doubtless the ruling authorities in the meantime kept a watchful eye upon him. Despite his recognizances, there is an entry in the proceedings of the Council of

State under date of 6 March 1651-2, when it was ordered that "Mr. Colebie be returned to the prison from whence he came, and Mr. Claypoole committed to the Gatehouse for holding correspondence with the enemy." How long a time he remained there I am unable to say, but we may venture to hazard the conjecture that his enlargement may have been owing to the good offices of his relative John Claypole and his wife the Lady Elizabeth (néé Cromwell). Who Adam's wife was is not known, but he certainly had a family. His name does not occur in the list of donors resident in the county of Lincoln who were contributors to the free and voluntary gift to H.M. Charles 2nd in 1661, either he had barely got over the expenses of indulging in the luxury of being an ardent royalist, or perhaps he was not residing in the provinces. In the Hearth Tax returns for this county (Lincoln) for 22 Car. 2, (1671), Adam Claypole, esq., of West Deeping, was assessed for eleven.

JUSTIN SIMPSON, Stamford.

113.—**The Drowned Condition of the Fens in 1740.**—In 1740 Mr. John Leaford published a pamphlet, of which the title was as follows:—"Some | observations | made of the | frequent drowned condition | of the | South Level of the Fenns, | and of the works made in | draining the same: | with | a scheme for relieving that level, | of carrying those works into execution with some additions. | London | Printed in the year of our Lord 1740." Mr. Leaford states at the outset his intention of making some observations which had occurred to him during the time he had been concerned upon several of the works made by the first adventurers and participants, for draining the Middle and South Levels and of the flux and reflux of the tides. It is clear from what follows that at that time both the Middle and South Levels were in a frequently drowned condition, for he says: "And I am humbly of opinion that if those works were carried into execution with some small additions, they would effectually relieve the drowned condition of those levels, and make the lands in the South Level (which are the sink of all the rest) certain summer

lands." The condition of the Ouse also was evidently in a very unsatisfactory condition, for Mr. Leaford says: "At the same time navigation would be render'd more certain and the outfall of the river Owze to sea would be kept open and preserved." If Mr. Leaford's hints were adopted he did not doubt that Bedford Level would become "a flourishing country, and consequently great numbers of indigent people relieved thereby." He then proceeds to trace the history of the drainage of the district, and concludes by stating his scheme. Shortly, it was as follows:—To open the two arches at Denver called Colonel Russell's two eyes and fix Sluice doors in them to keep the tides out of the South Level; to dam up that part of the course of the old Ouse across from the two eyes to the West shore; to scour out St. John's Eau, laying the earth on the Norfolk side, and open the upper end of the Eau to the Ouse; to take off the head of the arches of the bridge over the Eau, and make it a wooden bridge, high enough to navigate under, and to place a pair of ebb-doors at the mouth of Roxham Drain to prevent the waters reverting up that drain. The total cost of the scheme was £4,000.

A copy of this pamphlet is now in the possession of Lord Esmé S. Gordon, of Paxton Hall, Hunts., who has kindly allowed us the privilege of making these extracts from it.

It should be remarked, however, that Mr. Leaford's scheme was never carried out, for Mr. Wells, in his *History of the Bedford Level*, vol. I., p. 746, says: "Schemes were delivered for effecting an improved drainage, by two engineers of the name of Leaford and Smith, both of whom recommended the re-erection of the Sluice (at Denver), but the most important report, and that which fixed the Corporation, was received from Labeledye, a native of Switzerland, and then employed as the engineer in the erection of Westminster Bridge. In 1748, the Corporation determined upon the re-erection of the Sluice."

The pamphlet, in tracing the history of the drainage, gives an interesting review of the vagaries of the Ouse in the Fens between the years 1650 and 1740. The writer says that for many years previous to 1650 the Ouse took its course from Earith, by

Streatham Ferry, to Harrimeer, where the river Grant fell into it. From that point the united streams descended together, by a winding course by Ely and Littleport, to Denver, a distance of about 40 miles, and took into it by the way the several rivers of Mildenhall, Brandon, and Stoak, besides several smaller streams. In wet seasons the waters used to descend out of the highland countries by the rivers above alluded to into the South Level, where for want of proper banks, the water expanded over the whole level, furnishing a sheet of water in many places 15 and 16 miles broad. To remedy this the Adventurers, in pursuance of Cornelius Vermuyden's scheme, made in 1650 a new cut in a straight line from Earith to Denver, 21 miles in length and 100 feet wide, parallel with the old Bedford, which was 140 feet wide, leaving a piece of land between to receive the overflow waters in times of flood. They also put a Sluice at Earith to turn the river Ouse into this new cut. The reason for this was that it would carry the Ouse waters a nearer way to their outfall by about 20 miles. As soon as these works had been carried out at great expense, the Ouse waters ran through the new cut with such rapidity that in time of floods they overrode the waters of the Grant that came down the old course of the Ouse, and meeting at Denver, they reverted up the old course into the South Level, which they covered for want of proper banks. It being found impossible to embank the old winding course of the Ouse, and the rivers that fell into it, there being neither proper earth to make banks with, nor any bottom to support them, it was decided to erect a Sluice at Denver across the old Ouse, above the mouth of the Hundred-foot cut, which was carried out in 1652. But it was found that the flood waters shut the Sluice doors, and the Adventurers therefore made a drain to act as a slacker. By these means the tides and the Hundred-foot waters, when they overrode those of the Ouse, were kept out of the South Level for upwards of 60 years. Thus the lowlands then became secure summer lands. But as the gates of the new Sluice were so often shut, Navigators complained that it was an obstruction to navigation, and would very soon occasion the outfall to be silted up, and so destroy the haven of Lynn. In

1696 they stirred up the Corporation of Lynn to petition Parliament for a Bill to remove the Sluice and the Hermitage Sluice at Earith, and let the water go down the old bed of the Ouse as before, and as most of the people who knew the drowned condition of the Fens before these Sluices were put up were dead, several of the neighbouring towns and villages joined in the petition. The Bill was brought in, and it was opposed by the Bedford Level and some towns and villages "bordering upon the Fenns," and was finally thrown out. The writer adds: "Yet tho' the Adventurers gained their end in Parliament, they neglected to repair the said sluices, by which means they blew up in the year 1712, and have continued to lie open ever since, to the great damage of the owners of lands in the South Level."

**114.—Hockey or Hawkey.**—In reply to T.V.W. (No. 86, Part IV.), the word Horkey should be spelled Hawkey, or Hockey. Hockday, or hokeday, or hocktide, was a holiday formerly observed in many parts of England in celebration of the destruction of the Danes. Hence the word hockey, or as it was sometimes spelled hawkey, came to be used as applicable to any holiday. The word hawkey is often found applied to a harvest home. This will no doubt explain the "Potato horkey" of the Fens.

FENMAN.

**115.—The Great Fire at Ramsey in 1731.**—(No. 101, Part IV.)—With regard to the great fire at Ramsey on May 21st, 1731, there is an entry in the Parish Registers of Somersham, under date October 7th in that year, to the effect that a sum of £32 2s. 6d. was "collected at Somersham in the county of Hunt<sup>n</sup> for a loss by fire at Ramsey in the said cy.," of which the "Rev. Rich<sup>d</sup> Bentley, D.D., Regius Professor of Divinity, and Rector of Som<sup>n</sup>" gave £5 5s., "Thos Hammond, Esq., J.P., Lord of the Mannour" £10 10s., and "Jasper Lyster, Esq., High Sheriff" £2 2s., Daniel Whiston, (brother of William Whiston, the celebrated Mathematician) the Curate-in-charge of the parish gave 10s. 6d., the remainder being subscribed by "the inhab<sup>nt</sup>, servants, and labourers" of the town. CHARLES DAWES.

116.—**Thorney Abbey.**—In the taxation of Pope Nicholas, 4 c. 1291, I find this Abbey had property in the Borough of Stamford, of the annual value of 18s. 0½d. Not having at hand the *Valor Ecclesiasticus*, of 26 H.8, the Ministers Returns of 32 H.8., nor the *Monasticon Anglican*, I am unable to say for certain whether the convent returned it with their other temporalities at the Dissolution. In 1139, Baldwin, son of Gilbert de Wake, (d. 18.H. 2—1171-2) founded a Benedictine Priory at Deeping St. James, Lincs., dedicated to St. James Wydo de Wake, a descendant of the founder, in 1231, gave to the Abbot of Thorney (Richard de Stanford) and their cell of St. James Deeping, certain tenements in the parish of All Saints', Stamford, a gift that received confirmation from the papal legate, Ottobon William Lee, the last prior of Deeping, at the Dissolution 31 H.8., had a pension of 8l. p.a. granted him. In the *Chartularium Prioratus de Depyngs in con. Lincs., Harl. MS. 3658*, fol. 53c.—55 Brit. Mus., written c. 1350. I am able to lay before your readers a (translated) copy of what kind of property the Abbey of Thorney possessed in Stamford. *Fol. 53 b.* Inquisition taken at Stanford, on the 6<sup>th</sup> day of April, in the 8<sup>th</sup> year of the reign of King Edward (1315), the son of King Edward, before the lord John de Heselarton, knight, Elias de Birton then steward (*senescalli*) of Stanford, and Robert de Newerke, assigned by the commission of the noble man the lord John de Warenne, earl of Surrey, to enquire touching the fee and tenements of the religious men the abbot and convent of Thorneye in the vill of Stanford, by the oath of Eustace Malherbe, William de Apethorpe, Roger de Schanelere, John Asplow, Hugh Aurey, Gilbert de Reding, John de Knotteshale, Richard de Baldeswelle, William de Baldeweke, William Bunting, Henry de Kerbrok, and Henry de Helpiston. They say (*dicunt* in the MS.) that the Abbot of Thorneye and the convent of the same place, ought to receive from all tenants residing in their tenements Offare, Onfare, relief, Altol, Bucheyeld, Windowgeld, and all other customs as the lord the earl receives from his tenants; and they say that the Abbot aforesaid of Thorneye is the immediate lord of the tenants and

their tenements in Stanford, and the same abbot and his predecessors were seized of the services issuing from the tenements of the same from the time of the conquest and before, and held and ought to hold them in free, pure and perpetual alms, quit of all secular service.

Nevertheless the aforesaid jurors say that the lord the earl and his predecessors demanded of the abbot and his predecessors two advents by the year at the court of the same earl, but they never knew that the aforesaid abbot or his predecessors made these advents.\*

Confirmation of the lord John de Warenne, earl of Surrey, for Stanford. To all the sons of the holy mother church who shall see or hear this charter, John de Warrenna earl of Surrey, greeting in the Lord. We have inspected the charters of the noble Kings of England, and also the confirmation of the illustrious King our lord, the lord Edward, the son of the most noble King Edward, formerly King of England, which manifestly testify that the abbot and convent of the church of the Blessed Mary of Thorney should have and of right ought to have certain rents in our vill of Stanford, to be received annually of certain their tenants; which said rents they hold, and of right ought to hold *Fol. 54* in free, pure and perpetual alms, according to the tenor of the said charters and confirmation. And we unwilling to infringe the rights and liberties of the said church in anything, but desiring more powerfully to increase and maintain them as we are held on account of the devotion which we bear and have towards the most glorious mother of God and the glorious Saint Botulph, for the safety of our soul and for the souls of our ancestors and heirs do grant for us and our heirs that the aforesaid church of the Blessed Mary of Thorney, and also the monks serving God there, may have all their liberties and immunities within our vill of Stanford

\* In the *Rotuli Hundredorum* of 3 E 1 (1274), the Justices (the Lords Willm. de Sco. Omero, and Willm. de Chacumbe) appointed to take cognizance of encroachments upon the Royal prerogative, public privileges and rights, the jurors made to them the following presentment among other offenders. They say that John de Burgh, Abbot of Thorney and other spiritual lords all claimed to have court of their tenants in the town of Stamford, that they have and still hold the same, but by what authority and how long a time they (the Jurors) know not.



entire and unimpaired, and that the abbot of Thorney and his successors may have and hold for ever their tenants in our said vill, and also 8<sup>s</sup> 1<sup>4</sup><sup>d</sup> of annual rent to be received annually from their tenants, and from the tenements of the said tenants within written. That is is to say from Robert de Newerk for one messuage in Eastgate, 3*d.*; from John de Reppes for one tenement in Colgate, 5<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>*d.*; from Emma de Ketelthorp for one messuage in Cleymund, 3*d.*; from the prior of St. Leonards for two cottages outside the east gate, 5<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>*d.*; from the brethren of Mount Carmel from one messuage, which is called Chekerstede, 9*d.*; from John, the said earl, for one messuage, one cellar, and one shop in the parish of St. Mary, at the Bridge (*ad pontem*), 13*d.*; from Emma Bertelmen for one house within her mansion in the same parish, 1*d.*; from Henry de Piribrok for a certain messuage in Westgate, 9*d.*; from Henry Leche for a certain messuage in Westgate, 6<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>*d.*; from William de Baldeswelle and John Waldeschef for three messuages at the bridge of Malroie, 2*s.* 3*d.*; for a certain place opposite the church of the Blessed Peter, which said place Richard Marmium formerly held, 3<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>*d.*; from Roger Mechelone for one Messuage at the east bridge, 4*d.*; from John Freschs for one messuage formerly Hemming Likkesnot, 5*d.*; in our said vill of Stanford, with all their rights liberties and appurtenances as well in lordship as in demesne, in free, pure and perpetual alms, according to the tenor of the charters and confirmation, quit of all secular services, suits of court, customs and demands.

We forbid all and singular our ministers lest any of them by chance presume to injure or weaken the liberties, rights, and also the immunities of the said church in anything contrary to the tenor of this our grant and of the charters and confirmation of the said king. Commanding them that they with their power maintain, protect altogether and defend them.

In testimony whereof we have placed our seal to this charter, these being witnesses :

The Lord Thomas de Schefeld, John de Hasclarton, Peter de Montfort, William de Baghuse, Knights. Sir William de Cusance

Master John de Nevile, clerks, Robert de Newerk, Richard de Frekenberg, and others.

Dated at Reggate, on the 24th day of April, in the 8th year (1815) of the reign of King Edward, the son of King Edward.

Letter (in French, other documents are in Latin) directed to the Steward for the charter aforesaid.

John earl of Warenne to his steward of Stanford greeting. Because we have granted and confirmed, for the safety of our soul and for the souls of our ancestors, to the abbot of Thorneye in pure and perpetual alms, the tenements and services of their tenants in our vill of Stanford, quit of all manner of services, we command you that from henceforth you suffer them in peace and quiet without doing grievance, and that you cause their wages and distresses which are taken from them and their tenants to be delivered to them without delay, and that you maintain them according to the tenor of our confirmation.

Given at Kington, on the 28th day of April, in the 8th year of the reign of King Edward, son of King Edward.

This letter (in rubricated letters in the original) was read in the Court held on the Tuesday next after the Feast of Holy Trinity, in the 8th year of King Edward, son of King Edward, in the castle of Stanford, together with the charter of confirmation of the earl, as appears in the Roll of the aforesaid Court, these being present, Elyas de Birton, the steward then, Eustace Malherbe, Henry de Silton, and others of the Court.

On fol. 54*b* is a lease of houses in Staynford, as follows:—To all the faithful of Christ who shall see or hear the present writing, William by divine permission abbot of Thorneye and the convent of the same place, greeting in the Lord everlasting. Let all of you know that we have granted, surrendered, and demised to Walter de Apethorpe, in Stanford, Cecilia his wife, and Robert their son, our certain houses in Stanford, situate in the parish of All Saints, in the street which is called Byhyndebak. That is to say, that the aforesaid Walter, Cecilia, and Robert their son may have and hold the said houses, with the appurtenances, of us and our successors for the term of the life of each of them, freely, quietly,

well, and in peace. Rendering for them annually to our prior of Deping, who for the time shall be, 80s. at the four usual terms of the year. That is to say, at Easter 7s. 6d., at the Feast of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist 7s. 6d., at the Feast of St. Michael 7s. 6d., and at the Nativity of the Lord, 7s. 6d. without further delay. But Walter, or Cecilia, and Robert, whichever of them shall live the longest, and shall be tenant of the said tenement, shall repair the houses aforementioned, and shall build them when they are ruinous at their own proper costs, and shall sustain them in the life of each of them, etc. In witness whereof the seals of the aforesaid Walter, Cecilia, and Robert are appended to the part of this writing chirographed remaining in our possession. These being witnesses:

John de Chestre; William de Schylingthon; Thomas de Ponnfreyt; Reginald Saleby; Eustace Assewell; Robert Talyngthon; William Genty; Burgesses of Stanford, and others.

Given at Thorneye, on the Saturday next after the Feast of Botulf the abbot, in the 25th year of the reign King Edward the third, son of King Edward (18th June, 1351).

JUSTIN SIMPSON, Stamford.

117.—**Pen Provincialisms.**—(No. 69, Part III.)

CASELTY.—Uncertain. "He is a caselty fellow."

CESSES.—Peat cut in square blocks.

COP.—To throw. "Cop it here."

CHARES.—Odd jobs.

CLAT.—A tell tale; a tale bearer is called a tell-clat.

CLUNG.—Heavy, tough. "This land ploughs up very clung."

COPLING.—Unsteady.

COPPLE-CROWNED.—Tufted. "The bird was cople-crowned."

CAG MAG.—Course, inferior, or bad meat. Grove gives Cagg Maggs as "old and tough geese sent out of the Fens to London."

CHELPY & CHEPPY.—Saucy. "Don't be chelpy."

CHUNTER.—To mutter.

CORNED.—The worse for drink.

**CHIMBLEY.**—Chimney.

**CHAMBLLED.**—Eaten by rats or mice. The parts of corn left by rats or mice are called chamblings or chimblings.

**CAUVE, or CALVE.** A bulge in a bank.

**CAUK.**—Limestone or chalk.

**CLINK.**—Smart. "Clink and clean."

S. EGAR, Wryde, Thorney.

**118.—Earthquakes in the Fenland.**—(No. 21, Part I.)—In Shaw's Chronicle, p. 76. it is stated that a great Earthquake took place at Ely, Norfolk, and Suffolk, in 1165. No mention is made of it in the list of Earthquakes in the Fenland which was published by Mr. Miller in Part I. of *Fenland Notes and Queries*. Can any particulars be supplied? T.V.W.

**119.—Total Eclipse 1715.**—Referring to unanswered query (No. 47, Part II.), the following account of a Map of England and Wales, engraved by John Senex, showing the path of the Eclipse from Land's End to the Wash, may interest your readers, and stimulate enquiry as to any local records of the Phenomenon:—The Map is entitled "A Description of the Passage of the Shadow of the Moon, over England. In the Total Eclipse of the Sun, on the 22nd Day of April, 1715, in the Morning." At the bottom the following particulars of the Eclipse are engraved:—  
 "The like Eclipse having not for many Ages been seen in the Southern parts of Great Britain, I thought it not improper to give the Publick an account thereof, that the suddain darkness, wherein the Starrs will be visible about the Sun, may give no surprize to the People, who would if unadvertized, be apt to look upon it as Ominous, and to Interpret it as portending Evil to our Sovereign Lord King George and his Government, which God preserve. Hereby they will see that there is nothing in it more than Natural, and no more than the necessary result of the Motions of the Sun and Moon; And how well those are understood will appear by this Eclipse.

"According to what has been formerly Observed, compared w<sup>th</sup> our best Tables, we conclude y<sup>e</sup> Center of y<sup>e</sup> Moon's Shade will

“be very near y<sup>o</sup> Lizard point, when it is about 5 min: past nine  
 “at London; and that from thence in Eleven minutes of Time,  
 “it will traverse y<sup>o</sup> whole Kingdom, passing by Plymouth, Bristol,  
 “Glocester, Daventry, Peterborough, & Boston, near w<sup>ch</sup> it will  
 “leave y<sup>o</sup> Island: On each side of y<sup>o</sup> Tract for about 75 Miles,  
 “the Sun will be Totally darkened; but for less and less Time, as  
 “you are nearer those limits, w<sup>ch</sup> are represented in y<sup>o</sup> Scheme,  
 “passing on y<sup>o</sup> one side near Chester, Leeds, and York; and on  
 “y<sup>o</sup> other by Chichester, Gravesend, and Harwich.

“At London we compute the Middle to fall at 13 min: past 9  
 “in y<sup>o</sup> Morning, when 'tis dubious whether it will be a Total  
 “Eclipse or no, London being so near y<sup>o</sup> Southern limit. The  
 “first beginning will be there at 7 min: past Eight, and y<sup>o</sup> end at  
 “24 min: past Ten. The Oval figure [on the Map] shows y<sup>o</sup>  
 “space of y<sup>o</sup> Shadow will take up at y<sup>o</sup> time of the Middle at  
 “London; and its Center will pass on to y<sup>o</sup> Eastwards, with a  
 “Velocity of nearly 30 Geographical Miles in a min: of Time.

“N.B. The curious are desired to Observe it, and Especially  
 “the duration of Total Darkness, with all the care they can; for  
 “thereby the Situation and dimensions of the Shadow will be  
 “nicely determined; and by means thereof we may be enabled  
 “to Predict the like Appearances for y<sup>o</sup> future, to a greater degree  
 “of Certainty than can be pretended to at present, for want of  
 “Such Observations.

“By their humble Servant Edmund Halley.”

Halley was born 1656, became Astronomer Royal 1720, died  
 1742. Possibly records of the observations of the Eclipse may  
 be found in some Parish Registers of the Fen-land Churches.

C.J.C.

120.—**Soham and the Long Parliament.**—The following are  
 extracts from the *Calendar of the Committee for advancing money*.  
 1642—1656. Part ii. page 792, (British Musuem, 2076. D).

6 March, 1647. Samuel Thornton, Soham, Cambs. Assessed  
 at £300.

29 August, 1651. Order for his discharge from assessment, he

pleading Oxford Articles, and having compounded within 6 months and paid his fine.

The Committee for the advance of money had for its object the furnishing of the sinews of war to the Parliamentary Party. It was appointed 26th November, 1642. The "public faith" of the kingdom was given for repayment, with interest at 8 per cent. of all loans advanced for public service. The ratio of the assessment was one-twentieth of the real and one-fifth of the personal estate, but the assessments were often so much too high that instances of payment in full are extremely rare. The actual receipts were not more than one-sixth of the sum demanded. J. R. O.

**121.—Holbeach, Lincolnshire.**—The following answer of John Lesse and others to the complaint of John P'triche, Gentleman in the Star Chamber in the reign of Henry VIII. (Bundle 25, No. 192, Record Office) is interesting.

So far as I can learn, it is the only document that can be found relating to the "complaint." One wonders how the respective parties fared in that court of ill-repute.

W. E. FOSTER, Aldershot.

"The Answer of John Lesse John Merser John Bennett, Robert Thakker and Robert Cristmasse to the Bill of Complaint of John P'triche Gentleman.

"The said Defendants sayne that at the time of the first assemble supposed in the said Bill that they were and be p'chiners (parishioners) and inhabitant wt'in the parish of Holbysche named in the said bill of complaint and that out of time of remembrance of many their within the said parish hath bene accustomed that when-soever any thinge or act was to be entreated or concluded for the benefitt or the well of the churche of Holbysche aforesaid or for the amendment of the Sea dykes and banks within the same town or for any oder cause or matt'er concerning the wealth of the said town it hath bene used by all the said tyme bycause the parish there is gret and the p'chiners also dwelling wyde a sondre that a bell wt'in the said churche hath been used to be knolled or rungen to th'entent that the said

parishioners herynge the said bell should resort thither to comon (?) and to entreat of and uppon such cause or matter as be above rehersed And the said Defendants sayen that the friday next after the feaste of the Nativite of our blessed lady last past between a XI of the cloke in the night of the same day and IIJ of the clokk in the mornyng of the Saturday next after the churche of Holbysche aforesaid was robbed of asmocke Jewells plate and ornaments appteyning to the said churche as together did amount to the sume of CCC marks sterlynge or theirabout After which robbery done and comytted that is to say the day and yere conteyned in the said bill of complaint one of the bells in the said churche according to the customme aforesaid was rungen to the extent that the parishioner's their should assemble and resorte unto the same churche to comen treate and devyse howe and by whome the said robbery was comytted and done and by what meanys and circumstances they might come to the sewre knowledge of the same by reason whereoff the said Defendants with divers orders of the said parishioners heryng the said bell in peaceable manner repaired to the said churche to th' intent and purpose aforesaid and for none order cause for their whiche assemble the said complayment hathe not only untruly surmitted the matter expressed in the said Bill of complaynt but also by his senestre means did cause the said defendants and oder of the said parishioners to be untruly indicted for the said lawfull assemble— Whereof some named in the said indictment at the time of the said assemble we LX myles and above from the place of the said assemble And also that one of the said indictors was father-in-lawe to the said partryche and the other were special friends unto the said John p'tryche and by his speciall and senestre labo' putt uppon the pannell to the extent to fynd untruly the said indictment And that at the tyme of the said assemble supposed to be done the said complaynant was at London or nygh ther aboute and not at his howse in suche forme as he hath surmysed in his said byll without that the said defendants assembled ryoutously themselves at Holbyche aforesaid after suche manner or to any such purpose cause or entent as in the said bill is untruly surmytted

but only for suche cause and entent and under such manner and forme as before in this answer is expressed or that the said defendants or any oder caused the said bells ther to be rungen backwarde or that the said defendants or any oder assembled in forme as in the said answer is declared did fall in any contencion or variance amongst their selffe or that they or any of them ever entended to pluck the said complayment owt of his howse in manner and forme as by the same bill is untruly surmytted All which matter the said defendants and every of them shall be redy to averr and prove as this honourable court shall awarde and praying to be dismissed out of the same with their reasonable costs and charges by them susteyned in that behalf by reason of unlawfull suyte of the said parties."

122.—**Soham Mere.**—*Cole* (in 1746) speaks of the Mere as follows: "To the west of the town lies the famous and large Mere, which plentifully supplies the country with fish; it belongs to Lord Viscount Townsend, who caused it to be drained four or five years ago at a very great expense, but which yet would very well have answered had not the last year's rains overflowed the banks and drained\* it all again." J.R.O.

123.—**A Legend of Whittlesey Mere.**—A writer† in the *Leisure Hour* for 1887 tells a thrilling story which he heard from the lips of the principal actor. He was a cottager's son in Holme, and on a certain Sunday in the month of February, 1851, he was employed in bird scaring in the Holme Fen. Around the drained bed of the mere there was then standing what was known as "the reed shore." This was a belt of reed surrounding the mere to the depth of about a quarter of a mile to half a mile. This reed shore, which was a great source of revenue to its proprietors, was like a miniature forest, the reeds growing to a height of 14 feet and upwards. As a matter of course when any one got behind such a screen as this he would be lost to sight. Unfortunately

\* This word should of course be "drowned." *Ed. F. N. & Q.*

† No doubt the late Rev. J. Bradley, (Cuthbert Bede), who was Curate of Caldecote, Hunts.



the little boy wandered from his proper post in the fen and got round by the reed shore, and advanced a few steps on to the dried bed of the mere. He had no sooner done so than he began to sink with no power to extricate himself, and no one near to render him assistance. Happily for him he had not ventured above a yard from what was comparatively speaking dry land, and although he kept on sinking inch by inch, and expected that the mud would soon be over his head, he stopped sinking when the mud had reached his armpits. It was then half-past 3 o'clock on the Sunday afternoon. He was enabled to mark the time and count the hours, as he could plainly hear the Connington Church clock, and he could also hear the trains on the Great Northern Railway, with the times of which he was pretty familiar. He shouted for help, but there was no one near to aid him, nor could there be until the next morning. The evening soon closed in, followed by a night that was not only very dark but very tempestuous. The boy afterwards told me that he was not overpowered either by fatigue or cold, but that he remained awake and sensible the whole of the night counting every hour by the Connington clock. He had ceased to call for help when the darkness set in. The next morning he could see one or two labourers in the distance, but was powerless from the cold, and was unable to make any sign to them, even if it was possible for them to have seen it. At 10 o'clock he heard a man on the other side of the reed bed, but he had no voice to call him. Then the sound died away, and the boy thought that his last hope was gone. After half an hour's suspense he again heard the man pushing amongst the reed, and in a marvellously providential way the man's footsteps were guided to the very spot where the boy's head and shoulders and arms were seen above the bed of the mud. The astonishment of the man at the sight may be more easily imagined than described. It was with the greatest difficulty, being unassisted, that he could release the boy from his painful position, but at length he did so, and carried him through the reed shore on to the firm land. The lad was by that time completely paralysed with cold, and unable to speak; he had been 19 hours in the mud. His deliverer was a

Holme man, and recognizing the boy at once took him home, much to the surprise of his parents, who had accepted his disappearance very philosophically, and had accounted for his absence by the gratuitous supposition that he had gone to the neighbouring village of Sawtry to see his grandmother who had kept him for the night. A surgeon from Stilton was quickly in attendance, and the boy was promptly cared for. For two days he seemed to feel acutely the effect of his 19 hours in the mud bed, but the next week he was at school apparently none the worse for his misfortune.

124.—**The Parish Registers of March, co. Cambs.**—A yellow parchment volume is the oldest Register-book of St. Wendreda's Church, March, and though sadly stained by damp during its long repose in the vestry chest is still perfectly legible. The first page is inscribed thus:—"The register booke of Marche, all the christenings, buringes, and mariages, begynninge at the 25 day of March, Anno Dni, 1558, one year after another as followeth." But some loose sheets of coarse paper, brown with age, take us back another eleven years. They are evidently fragments of a yet earlier book, probably begun in 1538, when the king's highness gave commandment that such a book should be kept in every parish throughout the realm. The writing, careful and minute, is a little resembling modern German. The double column utilizing every scrap of space, seems to tell us that paper was a luxury imported from abroad in the year of grace 1549, and therefore to be used carefully. The old leaves of the register would make us infer that the population of the "hamlett of Marche" must have been somewhat under a thousand when Edward VI. sat on the throne. One year, 1553, seems to have been very fatal, as 43 deaths are recorded. Perhaps this was occasioned by the "sweatyng sycknesse" which wrought such havoc in the badly ventilated and worse drained houses of the xvth century. The entries are very brief and the age is never given.

"Buryals, 1548. Esabel Drawer, servant to MeBarret, was bur. the 12 day of June.

John the sonne of Humfrye Broune, was bur. the 18 of March."

Lustye seems to have been a not uncommon female name, but Alis and Agnis are the favourites. George only occurs once in 10 years. Julyan and Syslye and Lettes will scarcely be recognized as girls' names. It is instructive to notice the gradual change in the spelling of names. The old english Joan is not once found, and Jane is comparatively rare. Jone appears to be the correct orthography in the days of King Edward. The following is a curious transposition :

"1557, John, the sonne of John Tompsonne, was buried and baptized the 17th of February."

One Nichols Statewile was curate from 1558 to 1599, his name, together with that of William Walsham and Robert Coyne, churchwardens, appears on every page of the register for 42 years. Strange that three men should have held office so long together. The oldest Register Book contains the baptisms, marriages, and burials of 96 years, ending somewhat abruptly and confusedly in the Commonwealth period. The last entry, a baptism, is dated 1654, and is signed "John Marshall, Curat." It is out of its proper place, and seems to tell of difficulty in administering the sacraments of the church in those troublous times, and Marshall's signature occurs no more. Was he "a malignant?" In which case he may have been compelled to join his superior, John Nalson, the historian, the then rector of Doddington-cum-members, who, tradition says, was obliged to exchange his benefice for a somewhat furtive existence in the remoter parts of the fens. In any case his successor did little to mend matters from a puritanical point of view, for he begins another Register Book—once a very handsome volume with embossed brass corners and clasps—with a long record of baptisms.

"Anno Domini, 1655, the names of those weh were baptised in the town of March the year of our Lord 1655, beginning, according to our English account, the 25 day of March, and also the days of as many of their births as I could learne, know, or find out by their frendes." Then follow fifty-eight baptisms, of which the following is noteworthy :

“ Robert, the sonne of William Maskew, (as his parents affirm) was born in Barbadoes in Christ Church parish there, the 11th day of August, and baptised in this town of March the 20th day of November, next after.” This display of zeal seems to have offended the powers that were, for the handwriting suddenly changes in the middle of the following year. In 1664 the burial register, records the death of two sons of Mr. William Walsham, grandchildren of the venerable Elizabethan churchwarden. Thomas “acquitted himself not ingloriously fighting for his king and country in the unhappy civil wars of 1641,” so the Latin entry runs, while a similar inscription three months later, signed J. Nalson, records the virtues of another brother, John Walsham. Later on the register seems to have been rather carelessly kept, many marriages and burials are omitted altogether and others are entered in a very casual manner, of which the following is a specimen: “Mary, ye daughter of John Shepherd, was baptized about Lammas tide, either in this year or ye foregoing yeare 1664.” Twenty years later Mr. Isaac Boardman was curate, but apparently not very careful, as another hand testifies beneath his scanty entries: “What marriages were celebrated in the beginning of ye next year are set down in Mr. Boardman’s almanack for ye yeare: it is wished that such as are concerned would procure them and get them set down below.”

We may trace the resulting evils of plurality in the history of our little town in the steady decadence of the Church under the Hanoverian dynasty. Mr. V. Snell succeeds Philip Williams in 1720, and with him begins the long reign extending over nearly eighty years of non-resident rectors. For more than half a century the curate of March seems to have been unable to maintain himself on the pittance offered him by the incumbent, and was forced to undertake any other work he could obtain. Four generations of parish priests, from Mr. King’s successor onwards, had not only to shepherd the 2000 inhabitants of the vast hamlet, but also to undertake the duties of schoolmaster. We must picture him, therefore, spending weary hours—which should have been directed to private study and parochial work—in teaching

the rudiments of knowledge to a few shock-headed lads, and receiving the few pounds per annum yielded by "all that piece of land called the School Close." Thus heavily burdened, what time could the unfortunate curate possibly have found for parochial visitations and that close personal dealing by which alone the affection and esteem of the flock may be secured and retained? No wonder the lower and more ignorant classes were slowly but surely alienated by rich neglect, and that a small body of Baptists obtained a footing in the town about the middle of the century. Meanwhile the rectors of Doddington kept studiously aloof from this wealthy but ill-favoured fen living. When they write to March their letters are addressed from London or Stamford, anywhere but from their rightful home. Dr. Baptist Proby succeeded Mr. Snell, and was, I believe, Dean of Lichfield also for some years. Under the rule of the former—if, indeed, we can apply the expression, for he was hardly ever in the town, and was probably unknown even by the face to all save a mere handful of the principal people—things seem to have reached their lowest ebb. Fourpence seems to have been the annual charge for "Communion bread" for several years about the middle of the century, and points to a very small attendance at the Church's highest act of worship. Very strange and very saddening are many of the tales yet told of the apathy and neglect of this period. Early in the 18th century the parish register seems to have been written out by a person of very limited education. A shaky, uncertain hand records the fact that some burials are not entered but may be found "in Mr. Hewerdine's porkitt booke." No doubt we have the caligraphy here of the parish clerk; some of the entries are very curious:—

Burials, 1704.—April 16, the old Glasure Woman.

June, 18, Richard the Brewer.

June, 19, the wife of Parson.

The following collection of names will hardly be paralleled: Geoffrie Mobb, John Rosamond, Priscilla ye daughter of Roger Februarie, Maximillian Gent, Thomas Goakes, Lawrence Wildblood, Cornelius Windy, Kesia Noon, Robert Hisme, John Household, Abraham Beharrel, Abimlech Bencraft, peruke maker.

Several of these names are still extant. Not a few entries seem indicative of carelessness or ignorance—"A woman buried from the Widow Roods," "A stranger from the Black Swan," "A poor woman," whilst frequent records of drowning and inundation tell the tale of the olden time when the fenman's life was one prolonged struggle against flood waters and spring tide. Not a few names are indicative of the winged inhabitants of the country before the great drainage systems were perfected—"Swan," "Goos," "Sparrowhawk." The following curious entry is found in the first page of the marriage register introduced after the passing of what is known as Lord Hardwick's Act —

April 11, 1750.—Whenever the banns of matrimony have been published, and the man or woman shall refuse to be married, out of the fee due to the curate for the refusal the parish clerk is to have one shilling. W. WINDLE.

And then in another hand-writing—

If the curate thinks fit to give it him.

Oct. 6, 1763.

CHARLES CHADWICK.

Towards the close of the century somewhat better times seemed to have dawned upon the church in our hamlet town. Either good fortune in the shape of a legacy or a resolve to deny himself for the good of his parish prompted the Rev. Abraham Jobson, curate in charge, to give up the office of schoolmaster and devote himself entirely to the execution of the sacred duties of parish priest. The following entry records the change :—

Whereas the Rev. Mr. Jobson, Schoolmaster, for the charitable gifts of Mr. William Neale and Mr. James Shephard, late of March (deceased), hath given notice of his intention to decline teaching the poor children under the said charity at old Michaelmas now next ensuing. We therefore, the Churchwardens, of March aforesaid, whose names are hereunder written, do elect and choose Mr. John Wells, of March aforesaid, writing master, to succeed the said Mr. Jobson in the said Mr. Neale's charity for teaching eight boys of March aforesaid, and also choose him to succeed the said Mr. Jobson in a piece of land called the school close given by the said Mr. Shephard for the teaching three or more poor boys in March aforesaid.

Witness our hands this seventh day of October, 1782.

DAVID COWHERD, }  
JOHN CONTHORNE, } Churchwardens.

The year before the following entry occurs in the register of Baptisms :—"April 17, 1781, Mr. William Wandby was this day nominated churchwarden for the Dean of Lichfield in the

presence of the parishioners (who had illegally adjourned the vestry and were returning from church) by order of the said Dean and rector and by one his curate Abraham Jobson, Easter Tuesday, 1781." Further light is thrown on this matter by reference to the churchwardens' book, where it appears that the case was laid before Sir Henry Gould at the Cambridge assizes, with the result that the right of the parishioners to elect both churchwardens was confirmed. The costs paid by Mr. Jobson amounted to £47 and upwards. This case was again contested by the late rector of March (the Rev. J. W. Green, the first rector of the newly-constituted parish under the Doddington Rectory Division Act) in the year 1874, this time successfully after much litigation. The right of electing one churchwarden is now vested in the rector.

REV. C. E. WALKER, Rector, March.

125.—**History of Soham**, (*by the Rev. J. R. Olorenshaw*).—

In the Domesday Survey the name of the parish is spelt "Soeham," or "Seaham," and in more modern works "Seham." Other forms met with are "Soame," "Shoame," "Swoham," "Some," "Saham." *Soham* is spelt "Soegham" in Charter No. 685. It occurs in a will of Ælfred about A.D. 972; this will recites the will of Queen Æthelflæd, wife of King Edmund I. It concerns grants of land at Rettendon, Soham, and Ditton. The Anglo-Saxon name is "Soeghám." "Soeg" is obviously the same as Swedish dialect "sögg," wet, swampy, related to "sagt," drenched; all from the root verb seen in Anglo-Saxon "sigan," to sink, drain; whence also the Icelandic "saggi," moisture, dampness. The root verb "sik" has produced the Greek "i-chor" and provincial English "sile" to drain.

The following is an extract from the will above-mentioned:—  
 "And I give to S. Peter's, and to S. Aetheldryth and to S. Wihtburh and to S. Sexburh and to S. Eormenhild at Ely where my lord's body rests, the three lands which we both promised to God and His saint: that is at Rettendon, which was my morning gift, and at Soham, and at Ditton, as my lord and my sister before gave them; and the one hide at Cheveley which my

“sister acquired ; and the fellow of the torque which was given  
“to my lord as soul-shot.”

The termination “ham” is a very frequent one in English names and appears in two forms in Anglo-Saxon documents. One of these, “hām,” signifies an enclosure, that which hems in, a meaning not very different from “ton” and “worth,” (as in Northampton, Walworth). These words express the feeling of reverence for private right, but “hām” involves a notion more mystical, more holy. It expresses the sanctity of the family bond ; it is the *home*, the one secret and sacred place. In the Anglo-Saxon Charters we frequently find this suffix united with the names of families ; never with those of individuals. (See Taylor’s “Words and Places,” page 82).

The names *Eye Hill*, *Eau Fen*, *Soham Mere*, all point to the time when what is now cultivated land, was nothing more than a watery waste.

*Qua Fen*, it has been suggested, may be a corruption of “Quay,” *i.e.*, the place where ships used to load and unload. The statement is found in two or three histories, etc., of Cambridge-shire that Soham was, before the drainage of the Fens, a seaport town, its chief trade being with King’s Lynn, but the statement appears to need confirmation. *Quay Fen* is sometimes found “Calf Fen.”

*Soham Mere* is spoken of (*e.g.*, in an old geography, dated 1794), as the largest lake in England, the next in order of size being Ramsey and Whittlesey Meres. *Mere* is the Anglo-Saxon for lake or marsh.

*Soil of this Parish* :—The following is an extract from the chapter “On Soils,” in a book published in 1813, entitled “A general view of the Agriculture of the County of Cambridge,” by the Rev. W. Gooch :—

“*Soham with Barraway*.—On the east of the town, a black sandy moor, lying upon a gravel ; the remainder a deep, rich black mould, lying upon a blue clay or gault or clunch. Pasture extensive of first quality ; a large tract also of second quality. The Mere, formerly a lake, now drained and cultivated



—and the soil a mixture of vegetable matter and brown clay,—contains about fourteen hundred acres.”

*S. Felix*, who was brought from the Burgundian territory by Sigebert, the learned, one of the East Anglian kings, and who was the first Bishop of the East Angles, is said to have founded a monastery here about A.D. 630, and to have made Soham the seat of his diocese prior to the removal of the see to Dunwich, (*dun*, a hill-fortress, *wich* or *wick*, a bay ; sometimes called Dommoc,) a seaport on the coast of Suffolk, now almost annihilated by the ocean. Under the Conqueror, Dunwich, though no longer an episcopal city, had 236 burgesses and 100 poor ; and it was prosperous under Henry II. It is reported to have had fifty religious foundations, including Churches, Chapels, Priors, and Hospitals. Camden, writing in 1607, says it then lay “in solitude and desolation,” the greater part being submerged. *S. Felix* was Bishop seventeen years, having been consecrated about 631 by Archbishop Honorius. His episcopate was so full of “happiness” for the cause of Christianity that the historian Bede describes his work with an allusion to the good omen of his name, (*Felix*—happy). Bede says of him that “he delivered all the province of East Anglia from long-standing unrighteousness and unhappiness;” as “a pious cultivator of the spiritual field, he found abundant faith in a believing people.” It has been said that in no part of England was Christianity more favourably introduced. An important feature of his mission was the combination of education with religion by means of a school such as existed at Canterbury in connection with the house of SS. Peter and Paul. This school, for which Felix provided teachers “after the model of Kent” was probably attached to the primitive East Anglian Cathedral either at Dunwich or Soham. The labours of *S. Felix* as an evangelizer, and educator, and a church ruler, were closed on the 8th of March, 647. He was buried in his own city of Dunwich ; and it is interesting to find the memory of the apostle of East Anglia preserved in the name not only of Felixstowe, (the dwelling of Felix) to the south-east of Ipswich, but in that of a Yorkshire village, far away in the north—Feliskirk, (the church

of Felix) near Thirsk. His remains were shortly afterwards removed to Soham and interred in the chancel of the cathedral church which he had founded. This step was doubtless taken lest the Danes should get possession of them. In King Canute's time, about 1031, they were again removed by a monk named Etheric to Ramsey (Ramsey is derived from the Gaelic word "ruimne" a marsh) and were solemnly enshrined by Abbot Ethelstan.

"In those days (circ. 1020) S. Felix, formerly Bishop of East Anglia, lay buried in the royal manor of Soham. For at this place the saint while still alive had built and dedicated a beautiful church and gathered together a goodly company of monks. These monks subsequently, after their good father was dead, seizing an opportunity for which they had long waited, carried away his precious remains from Dunwich, the seat of his bishopric where he had been buried, and laid them with great honour in their own church at Soham. Afterwards however when this same church (or monastery) had been utterly destroyed and the monks killed by the Danes, who ravaged the country in that quarter, this saintly man had met with less reverence and less honour. This continued up to the time of King Canute, when Etheric hearing of it and persuading the king by his entreaties to consent to his plan, pointed out to Abbot Athelstan and the monks of Ramsey how by the expenditure of a little labour they might win for themselves inexhaustible riches and so urged them by the spur of self-interest to carry out his purpose.

Athelstan therefore taking with him Algerinus, his prior at that time, and a party of pious monks, set out by water for the place which contained a relic (or coffin?) of such value, and overawing by the combined authority of King and Bishop the resistance of those who were for opposing him, he placed the sacred remains and bones of the saint on board and began his voyage homeward to Ramsey amid the strains of joyous psalmody. The men of Ely however on hearing of this, grudging us so valuable a relic, manned their boats with a strong band, hoping by their large numbers to carry off from the smaller party the remains which they had removed from Soham. In order however that it might

be clearly seen that the removal was taking place rather by the Divine than by any human wishes, it came to pass that just as the ships of either party were approaching one another under a bright and cloudless sky, suddenly, to the discomfiture of the larger force and the benefit of the smaller, a dense fog arose which separated the two parties; and so, while their adversaries were vainly wandering in different directions, our boat was carried onward in a straight course and safely deposited by the aiding waters on the bosom of our native shore.

You may find it hard to believe this miracle which the wavering tradition of our forefathers has handed down to us, yet, reader, you are compelled to suspect it by no necessity so long as you are at all events convinced of the undoubted fact that the remains of S. Felix were, on King Canute's yielding to the prayers of Bishop Etheric transferred from the aforesaid town of Soham to the church at Ramsey and re-buried with great reverence; and there, even to this day does that holy man bestow on his worshippers many benefits. If you desire further to learn anything of his origin, his life or his good deeds, you must consult Bede who has composed a history of the English in admirable style, and among other men of the highest sanctity whom he there commends, has deemed the praise of our saint worthy of a place."

The Cathedral at Soham is said to have been erected by Lutlingus, a Saxon nobleman. The site of the Cathedral and Palace, which were adjacent buildings, appears to have been on the east side of the main street, opposite to the present church. Many vestiges of buildings and human bones are said to have been dug up about 150 years ago.

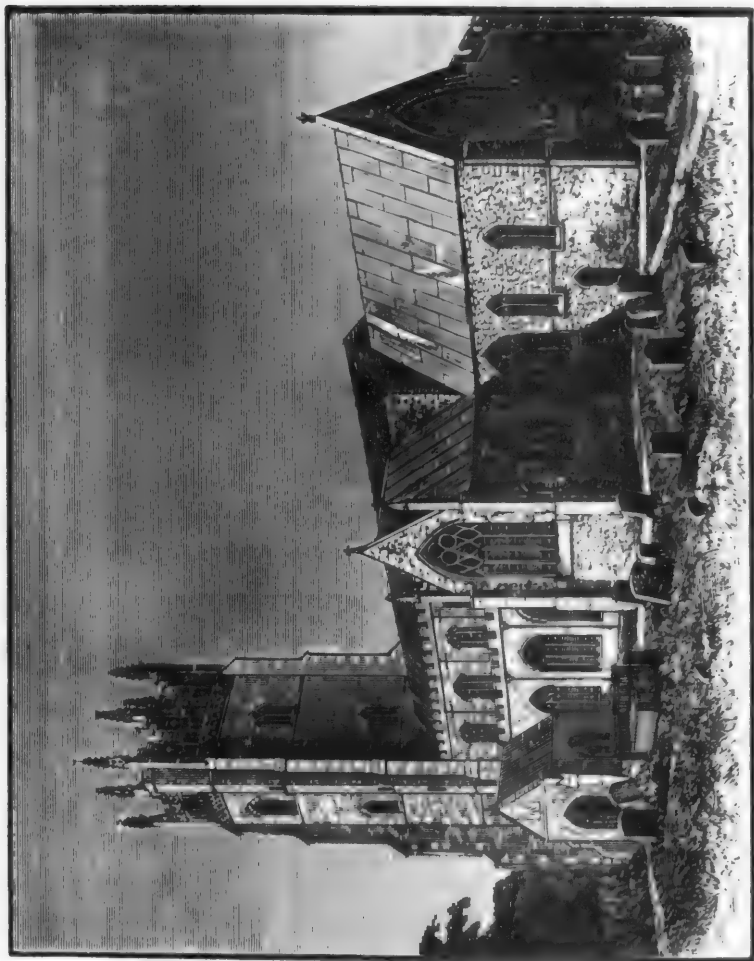
A stone coffin, in an imperfect condition, was found in the same site a few years back, but unfortunately it was used by the finder to make cement with. A few bones (skulls, &c.) were met with in 1887, when the foundations for the Conservative Club were being excavated.

The following story of King Canute (A.D. 1017—1035), based on the narrative of the *Liber Eliensis*, is told in Mr. Miller's interesting tale entitled *The Camp of Refuge*:

“One winter King Canute went to visit the monks of Ely. Then the nobles of his court said, ‘We cannot pass: the king must not pass on the slippery, unsafe ice, which may break and cause us all to be drowned in the fen waters.’ But Canute, like the pious and stout king that he was, said, ‘Hold ice or break ice, I will keep the feast of the Purification with the good monks of Ely! An there be but one bold fenner that will go before over the ice by Soham mere and shew the way, I will be the next to follow!’ Now there chanced to be standing amidst the crowd one Brithmer, a fenner of the Isle of Ely, that was called from his exceeding fatness Budde, or Pudding; and this heavy man stood forward and said that he would go before the King and shew him a way on the ice across Soham mere. Quoth Canute, who, albeit so great a king, was but a small, light man; ‘If the ice can bear thy weight, it can well bear mine! So go on, and I follow.’ So Brithmer went his way across the bending and cracking ice, and the king followed him at a convenient distance; and one by one the courtiers followed the king, and after a few falls on the ice they all got safe to Ely. And for the good deed which he had done, King Canute made fat Brithmer, who was but a serf before, a free man, and gave unto him some free lands which his posterity held and enjoyed a long time afterwards.” (Page 464.)

*The Church.*—It is impossible to say whether the “cathedral,” founded by Lutlingus was the same building that was destroyed by the Danes about 870, or how far it is true that these invaders first drove “the priests and all the people” into the cathedral, and then, setting fire to the building, destroyed both it and them in the flames. Nothing is known about the church or “cathedral” of Soham before the XI century, except that the bones of S. Felix were interred in the chancel and remained there until 1031, when, as we have seen, they were removed to Ramsey. This may point to the rebuilding of the original church (destroyed in 870) on the same site, and to its having remained until the middle or end of the XI century at least. But there is no evidence to determine whether the building in which S. Felix was interred stood on the





ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST, SOHAM.

site of the present church, or on the opposite side of the road where the human and other relics have been found. If the former was the site, then the old building was probably incorporated into the present chancel.

The existing church, which, like all churches of the same age, has undergone many changes since first erected, is said to have been built about the end of the 12th century. If this were so, however, we are confronted by a little difficulty. We know there was a Vicar of Soham named Ranulph in 1102, because on the 29th of August in that year, Hubert de Burgh, Chief Justice of England, granted to the church of S. Andrew, in Soham, the lands which he had given to "Ranulph the Vicar" in trust for the church.

The building in which S. Felix was buried must therefore have remained longer than the end of the 11th century, or the present church was built earlier than the end of the 12th century, or there was no church at all for nearly 100 years. The grant to Vicar Ranulph may have led to the erection of a new church. The same grant, it will have been noticed, speaks of the church as dedicated to S. Andrew, and it is referred to under the same name in various old documents and modern books of the following dates:—1250, 1302, 1570, 1746, 1780, 1808, 1840, 1875, and in the wills of the 16th century. But it is now popularly known as the church of S. John the Baptist, although no trace can be met with of any re-dedication. The only apparent reason for its being called by the latter name is that the "feast" is kept on or near S. John the Baptist's day. The evidence in favour of S. Andrew is however, overwhelmingly strong.

The ground plan of the church is that of a cross, with provision for a central tower. In 1496\* one ——— left a legacy for "taking down ye maste (or shafte) of ye steeple and towards ye making of another of stone;" and in 1502 mention is made of "novum campanile." As the present tower at the west end was built about the 15th or 16th century, it may be supposed that the

\* An examination of the wills of the 15th century, at Bury, would probably throw more light on this and other points.

central tower was newer finished in stone, but that there was only a wooden bell turret until the above legacy led to the erection of the west tower. The nave, which is lofty, measures 52 feet by 22 feet, with side aisles of the same length and 9 feet wide, divided from the nave by arcades of four arches, springing alternately from octagonal and circular shafts, with moulded caps and bases, and plain pointed arches of two orders. The central tower, 22 feet square, springs from four pointed and enriched arches of three orders, rising from semi-circular responds with enriched capitals and plain bases, the western arch being much enriched on its west side. Access to this tower was gained from the chapel (choir vestry) the steps still remaining.

The chancel, which is 34 feet long and 18 feet wide, though probably of the same date as the nave, has been much altered by the insertion of decorated windows of about the middle of the 14th century. That at the east end, of five lights, is large and was considered by Freeman one of the best specimens of its period. Its stone-work will amply repay careful examination. It was filled with stained glass by Clayton and Bell to the memory of the Rev. Henry Tasker, who died January 17th, 1874, after having been vicar of the parish for 41 years. The subjects represented are twenty in number, viz. : "The entry into Jerusalem; Christ weeping over Jerusalem; Institution of the Holy Communion; Washing the Disciples' feet; Gethsemane; The Betrayal; Christ before the High Priest; Before Pilate; Peter's Denial; Before Herod; Behold the Man; Bearing the Cross; Crucifixion; Descent from the Cross; The Entombment; Sealing the Stone; Setting the Watch; The Resurrection; Appearance to Mary; At Emmaus."

At each side of this window is a small niche, in the smaller of which are still to be seen the letters IHS; and in and around both there are distinct traces of painting. On the north wall of the chancel there is a fairly clear representation of a bishop on his throne, clad in his episcopal vestments, the right hand uplifted in the act of blessing, and the left holding the pastoral staff. The figure measures 5 feet and the whole fresco 4 feet 6 inches by 9



feet 6 inches, and was discovered in 1849, when the chancel was restored. There are traces of painting on several parts of the chancel wall, leading to the supposition that the whole of the chancel was at one time ornamented in this way.

The arch into the choir vestry is of local or "clunch" stone.

In 1849 the chancel was thoroughly restored at the joint expense of the patrons and the vicar, the Rev. H. Tasker. A new roof was put on, and the whole of the lead re-cast; the mullions and tracery of the east window restored, and two new windows\* inserted on the south side. The roof is of polished English oak, pannelled, with centre and corner rosettes of the same material, resting on a base of richly carved foliage. The wood work at the east end is of English oak, having five panels on the north side, and eleven at the east. On nine of the latter there has been cut out in bold relief in the Gothic character the Lord's Prayer, the Ten Commandments, and the Apostles' Creed, whilst each of the sixteen panels is beautifully ornamented at the top. The altar rail, also of oak, has seven panels, each pierced in a different design, and all of a most handsome pattern. The stalls are twenty in number, and with the exception of six on the north side, which were added in 1880, were erected in 1849, together with the screen, which is a fine specimen of modern work. The carving at the east end was all executed by Messrs. Rattee, of Cambridge, from plans furnished by Messrs. Benomi and Cory, of Durham, and may be said to be one of the chief features in the church. The old stalls of the chancel, ten in number, and which have misereres, are now at the west end of the church.

Immediately under the altar is the tomb of the Rev. D. Harwood, formerly vicar of this parish, who died in 1746; also of Mrs. Eliz. Cawthorne, his sister, who died in 1782.

At the south side of the chancel, within the rails, are ancient stone sedilia with a piscina, all of which were restored in 1849.

\* It is not quite clear whether this is to be taken to mean two windows restored, or an alteration in the number, or position of the windows. Miss Bullman (High Street) has two or three old engravings of the Church which might solve this point, and which are in themselves very interesting.

"The church\* consists of a nave, two side aisles, two cross aisles, a sort of division between the nave and the chancel, which is handsomely roofed with wainscote, and two coats of arms remain carved on it, viz. :—a cross coupé and two keys 'en saltire;' perhaps what I took for a saltire may be these keys on the tower.

"The church is dedicated to S. Andrew, which may occasion the aforesaid saltires or S. Andrew's crosses on the tower."

"The altar stands on an eminence of two steps and is railed in; on the south side of the wall are the sedilia† and a place for holy water. About six feet from the steps, exactly in the middle of the chancel, which is stalled all round with good old oak stalls, lies an old grey marble disrobed of the figure of a priest, and inscription at his feet, and four ornaments at the corners which were of brass. This, probably, was for one of the former parsons. Under this stone, about 10 feet deep, by his own direction, lies the late Vicar, the Rev. Mr. Hawkins; there is no inscription added to it, but this I was informed of by the clerk.

"Close to this on the south lies a black marble slab with this inscription, 'Here lieth the body of Ursula, the wife of Will. Dowman, Gent., and daughter of Thorogood Upwood, Esq., who died 17th July, 1700. Act. 25.—Sic Phoenix.'"

"Lately there was dug up in the entrance to the chancel, the head under the threshold, an old stone coffin,‡ now removed into the north chapel or vestry. There are two or three coffin stones lying in the chancel, but no inscriptions on them."

Two chapels have been added on the north side of the chancel; the easternmost one of the 14th century, is now used as a clergy vestry, and contains an interesting old stone altar fixed into the east wall, and measuring 5ft. 4in. by 2ft. 3in. and 6in. thick, the front edge being bevelled off. Dr. Cressener, vicar from 1678 to 1717, was buried here, and there is a curious tombstone by the fireplace, in shape an irregular oblong, with letters cut in, and is most likely the same that Cole speaks of in the following terms:—

\* Cole's MSS., vol. ix, &c., July 28, 1746. † Clerestories in M.S.

‡ This stone coffin, together with the fragments, have long since disappeared.

(To be continued).

126.—**Croyland Notes, No. 3.**—(No. 82, Part IV.)—The armorial windows that once adorned our venerable abbey formed the subject of my last paper. I will now relate an event attended with disastrous results when the windows were destroyed, and the abbey itself was not spared. Holdich, the historian, says the town was garrisoned for the king, and that in 1643 the parliamentary forces under Cromwell besieged and took it 9th May. The following account, entitled "A Certayne relation of the taking of Croyland," taken from the original copy which has the appearance of being written about the time it took place, assigns that event to the 28th of April. It is pretty certain that the author must have been one of the original prisoners, and the fact of a copy of Mr. Ram's letter being given, the narrator was not improbably the minister himself :—

"Upon Satterday the 25th of March, being Lady day, erly in the morneing, Captn. Stiles and Capt. Cromwell, mast. will Stiles, the minister of Croyland, with about 80 or 90 men, came to our towne of Spalding, wch at that time was vtterly unfurnished of men and armes, whereof they had intelligence the evening before by some of our maligna(n)t and Trecherous neybour; nere breake of day they beset the house of Mr. Ram, the minister of the towne, where they tooke John Harrington, esqr., and the sayd Mr. Ram, and in a violent and uncivil manner carried them away to Croyland, att the entering whereof all the people of the towne Generally were gathered together to se and triumph ouer ther prisoners, wch put vs in mind of Sampson's entertaynements when he was taken by the Philistines: some others of our towne they tooke at the same time, but released all saue Edward Horne, one of Captayne Escorts servants, so we 3 were kept together under strong guards, and about 10 dayes after, one Mr. william Slater, of Spalding, a man of about 66 yeares of age was taken by some of there scouts and made prisoner with vs, our vsage for dyet and Lodging was indifferent good at the time of our imprisonment, wch was 5 weeks, but some insolencies we weare inforced now and then to indure. Capt. Styles one day quarreled with vs for praying, and forbade vs to doe so saying we shoold pray every man for himselfe,

Threttening he wood take away the bible from vs, saying it was not fit for traytors to haue the Bible, and by noe meanes wood p'mit us to haue pen, inck, or paper, though Mr. Ram did earnestly sue to him for them, and protested that he wood write nothing but what they shoold see or heare if they pleased. After we had continued there nere 3 weeks, on Thursday, the 12 of Aprill, some companeys of our frends aduanced towards our release, where vpon, about 8 o'Clock that night, we weare all carried downe to the Bulworke on the north side of the towne, where we continued amunst the rude souldiers and townesmen till after midnight, but by reason our forces fel not on that night we weare carried into an alehouse, where we continued till daylyght, and then we weare had to our lodgings. But when our companys approched nerer our towne, then weare we all brought fourth agayne, and another prisoner, one Daniel Pegg, of Deepinge aded to vs and carried to that part of the towne where the first onset (?) was giuen : being all of vs fast pinioned and made to stand in an open place where the Cannon began to play. A while after we weare all 5 of vs set upon the top of the brest worke (according as had benn often thretened before) weare we stooode by the space of 3 Hours, our frends shooting ferceley at vs for a greate pt (part) of the time before they knew (us?). . . . . Harrington tooke one of his souldiers Musketts Charging it with pistall powder, and himself made 3 shots at his owne father, both he and all the rest of the Souldiers on that side supposinge we had binn Croylanders that stood there to brave them : when our frends p'ceuid who we weare they left (off) firing upon vs and began to play more to the right hand of vs, whether Mr. Ram and Seruant Horne weare presently remoued, wch caused our p'ty to hould there hands : so little was done on that side of the towne that day, indede there works weare very strong and well Lined with Musqueters, who weare Backt with store of Hassock knives, long syths, and such like fenish weapons, and besides without there works was a greate water both brode and deepe, wch incompassed all that side of the towne by reason whereof our smal forces coold doe no good at that time, neyther could they approach nerer without greate Haserd

and losse : the Minister of the towne, Mr. Stiles, was very actiu<sup>e</sup> all the time of the fighte on the west side, where he commanded in cheefe runing from place to place, and if fearefull oaths be the character of a good souldier he may well pass Muster, wch made vs not so much to maruell at the abominable swereing wch we heard almost from euery mouth, yea, even when the Bullets flew thickest. But as the fury of the assalt did beginne to abate in those p'ts (parts), so did it begin to increase in the north side, whither presently Mr. Ram and Seriant Horne were posted and there set vp upon the Bulworke for our frends on that side to play upon : who plyed vs with greate and smal shot for a greate while to gether, supposing Mr. Ram had been the vapoureing p'son (parson) of the towne, many of our dere and worthy frends haue since tould vs how many times they shot at vs with there owne hands, and how Heartyly they desired to dispatch vs : But the Lord of Hoasts, who numbers the Hayres of our heads, so guided the Bullets that of Multitudes wch feu about our ears (and many of them within half Mosquet shot) not one of them had the power to touch vs, (blesed be the name of our good god). After we had contunued about 3 hours more upon the north worke our fources began to retreatate, and then weare we taken downe and garded to our lodgings Mr. Harrington also and the 2 other prisoners which had continued al the while upon the west workes weare bringing up to vs, but the forces on the north side begin to fire agayne, where vpon they weare carried back towards these workes by a base fellow of the towne, and then our fources on both sides retreated."

JUSTIN SIMPSON, Stamford.

127.—Peterborough in 1774.—“Peterborough is the smallest city in England, and but very indifferently built. At one end of the town runs the Nen, here a considerable river, and which is lately made navigable to Northampton, near 50 miles higher. Over this stream is a good bridge, but the only building worth visiting at Peterborough is the minster : it is a noble gothic structure, the west front particularly rich in embellishments, and is much admired ; however, the whole stands in need of consider-

able repairs, which for reasons that are obvious, will not perhaps be hastily undertaken. Within it there is a painting of one Scarlet, once sexton here, who lived to bury two queens and all the housekeepers of the place twice over. Besides the cathedral, there is in Peterborough only one parish church."

*Gentlemen's Magazine, 1774.*

**128.—Yaxley Barracks in 1807.**—The following is an extract from a newspaper of the above date:—"Barracks have been erected here on a very liberal and excellent plan for the security of French prisoners, who employ themselves in making bone toys and straw boxes and many other small articles, to which people of all descriptions are admitted on Sundays, when more than 200*l.* a day has been frequently laid out in purchasing their labours of the preceding week. As a prison it is not only elegant, but convenient and spacious, and the enjoyment of health has been particularly consulted. We recommend it to every traveller of leisure to satisfy himself whether it merits the character of a 'filthy, swampy, infectious dungeon,' as a prostituted French journalist has wantonly and falsely asserted. It is capable of containing seven or eight thousand men, and has barracks for two regiments of infantry."

N. EDIS, Stamford.

**129.—Ramsey Fire.**—(No. 115, Part V.)—In the *Stamford Mercury* is recorded the decease at Ramsey, 22 Mch., 1825, of Mrs. Moore, relict of Rev. Peter Moore, formerly Prebendary of Lincoln, aged 95. She was a native of Ramsey, and when it was destroyed by fire in 1731 she was removed in her cradle.

J. S., Stamford.

P.S.—A reference to the parish register would supply us with the lady's christian name. Of whom was she a daughter?

**130.—A Voyage from Cambridge to Lynn and Boston, 1827.**—The Rev. Charles Frederick Rogers Baylay, Trinity College, Cambridge, M.A., 1831, Rector of Kirkby-on-Bain 1846, died at his Rectory House, Third April, 1890, aged 84 years, and was buried in his Church-yard. The reverend gentleman, when a

student at Cambridge in 1827, formed one of a crew who made a voyage in an eight-oar boat from Cambridge to Lynn, where they took a pilot on board and crossed the Wash to Boston—20 miles of sea water, which can be rough sometimes, but on this occasion the day was fine and the water smooth; they then proceeded by the Witham to Tattershall, and arrived at Lincoln on the 21st April, 1827—the day Bishop Kaye was installed. Nine stalwart worthies, in full boating costume, attending Divine Service in the Cathedral, astonished the sober-minded citizens of Lincoln as much as if a canoe full of Sandwich Islanders had landed in their city. Mr. Baylay was stroke, John Mitchell Kemble and Kenelm Digby were in the crew, and also Mr. A. T. Malkin, of Wimpole Street, London; this gentleman wrote to the "*Times*" (4th Aug., 1885), inviting other members of the party to communicate with him. As Mr. Baylay was the only one who responded, it was concluded that these were the only survivors of this adventurous voyage. Mr. Malkin in his letter says, "we took a pilot on board from Lynn to Boston, but were not nursed by a steamer, nor padded with cork; more fools we, from an octogenarian point of view. All came fresh into Boston." A writer of the time says, "The vessel in which this very spirited expedition was conducted was an open row boat, very long and narrow, being about 42 feet by 3 or 4, evidently well adapted for speed, but more to be trusted to the smooth waters of the Bedford level than upon the inconstant main. In this wherry, however, having descended the Cam and the Ouse to Lynn, the gallant crew crossed the estuary of the Wash on Friday last over to the mouth of the Witham, with the assistance of a Lynn pilot, engaged for the purpose."

On the 22nd, after a paddle round Brayfoot water, greatly to the gratification of the citizens who admired the boat and greatly applauded the crew, they commenced their return voyage; again putting up at Tattershall for the night, they arrived at Boston on Monday morning the 23rd. On Tuesday they put to sea, but encountered rough water and were in some danger, as their boat endeavoured to go through the waves instead of riding over them; they had to back into smooth water before they could swing the

boat, and returning to Boston, sent their vessel on a timber waggon with three post horses to Wisbeach, the crew going on foot; neither of the survivors could remember their route from Boston, but it would no doubt be by way of Fosdyke Bridge, Holbeach, and Long Sutton, at any rate, they agreed that they re-embarked at Wisbeach, and in due time reached Cambridge—all well.

An account of this rowing feat appeared in the "Lincoln and Lincolnshire Cabinet, 1828," which is substantially correct, but not wholly so. The above is written from this account, corrected by Mr. Malkin's letter to the "*Times*," and from communications I received from him and from Mr. Baylay in 1886. "There was no Fortescue in the crewe [as stated in the 'Cabinet'] our stopping at Tattershall had nothing to do with the ownership thereof, neither were we attracted to Lincoln by Bishop Kaye."

C. J. CASWELL, Horncastle.

131.—**Will of William Bevill, of Chesterton, 1487.**—"In the name of Almighty God, Amen. I, William Bevill, of Chesterton in the county of Huntingdon, gentillman, of an holy mynde and good remembrance, being the xxx day of y<sup>e</sup> moneth of July, in the yeare of our Lord God, M.CCCCLXXXVIJ, make my Testament and my last will in this wise: First, I give and bequeath my soule unto Almighty God, his blessed modyr and mayd, Our Lady Saint Mary, and all the blessed company of heven, and my body to be buried in the chirch of St. Michael of Chesterton aforesaid, afore the autre of y<sup>e</sup> blessed Lady St. Mary the Virgin, w<sup>th</sup> my best hoes in y<sup>e</sup> name of my mortuary, after the custume of the cuntre &c. Also, I bequeath to my sonne, Will'm Bevill, a great chest, a prewce cofer &c. Also, I bequeath to my sonne Rob't Bevill a fedre bed, w<sup>th</sup> a bolster, twoo pillowes, twoo blanketts &c. The residue of all my goods not bequeathed, my detts payd, I give and bequeath to the aforesaid Rob't Bevill, my sonne, whome I ordeyne and make of this my testament myne executor &c. This was done the day, yeare, and place above written. Then p'sent. y<sup>e</sup> parson of Chesterton aforesaid and other.' CHARLES DAWES



**132.—Trade Tokens at Chatteris.**—Tokens were first issued about the year 1643, and were proclaimed as illegal for current coin in 1672. Private enterprise was responsible for their introduction, and they were issued unofficially from time to time to meet the demand for "small change." They were generally made of copper, but sometimes of brass, and, as may be expected, they very often consisted of very crude specimens of the numismatic art. Four sets of these coins were issued at Chatteris between the years 1663 and 1670; and it is a remarkable fact that the name of the town is spelt differently on each. Probably the name of no place has been spelt in so many ways as that of Chatteris. In the Domesday Book it is called Chatriz, and in later records it has been indifferently alluded to as Ceatrice, Chartres, Chateriz, Chatis, Chaterys, Chattris, and so on almost *ad infinitum*. The following tokens were used in place of the ordinary coinage at Chatteris in the latter part of the seventeenth century:—

- 1.—*Obverse*, THOMAS \* COAPE \* AT \* THE = a gate.  
*Reverse*, AT \* CHATTRIS \* FERRY = his half penny. 1670.
- 2.—*Obverse*, THOMAS \* DRING \* OF \* CHATERIS = his half penny.  
*Reverse*, IN \* THE \* ISLE \* OF \* ELY \* 1667 = T.I.D.
- 3.—*Obverse*, WILLIAM \* SMITH \* OF = a cooper making a cask.  
*Reverse*, CHATRIS \* 1670 = his halfe penny.
- 4.—*Obverse*, JOHN \* FRENCH \* OF \* 1668 = 'The Drapers' Arms.  
*Reverse*, RAMSEY \* AND \* CHATTERIS = his half penny.

An illustration of the first coin is given in Boyne's *British Tokens*. The parish of Chatteris was formerly divided by a river called the Old West-water, running from Somersham to the Ferry turnpike. This river has become dry land since canals have been made in other directions for draining the Fens. A house near to the place where the Ferry formerly was, still retains the appellation of the Ferry House, and the steep bank of the river is now known as the Ferry Hill.

CHARLES DAWES.

**133.—Fenland Parishes in 1340, No. 2.**—(No. 107, Part V.)—The following is a further list of the principal inhabitants of various towns and villages in Huntingdonshire as returned to the

**Exchequer Court in the 13th year of the reign of Edward III.:**—*Rameseye* (Ramsey).—Roger Clere, William Chatenden, Benedic Wean, Nicholas Carte, William de Staunford, and Henry le Smyth.

*Wardeboys* (Warboys).—Galfred Noble, Thōe. Rowen, Richard son of Nicholas, John Palmere, Roger Raven, Galfred Wodekoc, Galfred Gerold, Richard Gerold, Richard Margar, Henry Brown, Nicholas Brounyg, Benedic son of Laurence, and Nicholas Milnere.

*Jakele* (Yaxley).—Richard Alberd, Robert le Man, Hugh Colyn, Simon de Bernewell, Hugh Curteys, Richard Sopere, Robert le Smyth, William son of Roger, John Launcelyn, John Freyshwater, Henry de Emyngham, and Simon Arketill.

*Sautr'* (Sawtry).—William de Derby, John Tyffeyn, Robert Meweyn, John Wodeward, Thomas Flexman, Hamon Fykeys, John Beaumeys, John son of Eve, Galfred Beaumeys, John Prestesman, John Bryhte, and John Mepereshale.

*Haliwell* (Holywell).—John de Haliwell, Roger de Craunfeld, Nicholas Scot, John Laweman, John Ganelok, Thomas de Hoghton, Henry Clerenans, John de Kerynton, and William de Bykeleswade.

*Hemyngford Prior'* (Hemingford Grey).—William de Juye, Ralph le Vernonn, John le Warde, William Gerband, Ade Sier, Thomas Gamelyn, Robert Jacob, John Hame, John Nicholas, John son of Thomas, William Sier, and John le Smyth.

*Hemyngford Abbat'* (Hemingford Abbots).—Simon atte Stile, Ade Amable, Reginald Fermer, Thomas Mareschal, Nicholas Trappe, Thomas Jurdon, John Seled, Simon atte Tounesende, Henry Barker, Simon Everard, William Craunfeld, and John Aylemar.

*Hoghtone Wittone* (Houghton-cum-Wyton).—Gilbert de Hoghton, Robert Porter, John Crane, William Betonn, Peter Cok, John Crystys, John Harneys, John Bryht, John Bedil, John Porter, Walter de Bytherne, and Robert be the hee.

*Wystov* (Wistow).—Thomas Palmere, Thōe. Hosebonde, Ralph Clerenans, Nicholas Catelyn, John son of Margarete, William del Wolde, Richard le Reve, Andrew Flemyng, John Pykeler,

Thomas Aspelon, Robert Crane, and John de Pappeworth.

*Gurmecestr'* (Godmanchester).—Thomas Hopay, John Baronn, Galfred Manipeny, Henry Colewat, John Gleive, William Alred, William le Rede, Galfred atte Russhes, John Milcent, Richard le Rede, William Gile, and Henry Manipeny.

*Stiucle Magna* (Great Stukeley).—Andrew Balle, William le Smethesson, Alexander Robyn, John Laurence, Simon Callon, Roger Balle, Roger atte Stile, John Russel, John Warde, William Purdhomme, William Palmere, and Hugh Payn.

*Stiucle P'va* (Little Stukeley).—William Coupe, Thomas le Reve, Simon Howelet, Robert Ryngedale, John Baylyf, and William Hicke.

*Broghton* (Broughton).—William Clerk, John Wold, John Parsoun, Robert Boteller, Thomas Bald, William Wryhte, Ralph sup' le Hull, Thõe Pelag, John Randolf, John atte Dam, Thomas de Broghton, John Bigge, and John Justise.

*Ripton Abb'* (Abbots Ripton).—William Hanlound, Hugh Thewar, Alexander March, Robert West, Andrew son of Philip, Andrew Oliver, Oliver Buk, John Robbes, William Hayward, John le Renesson, Martin Outy, and Thomas le Neve.

*Ripton Reg'* (King's Ripton).—John de Deen, Nicholas son of Thomas, John William, John Stalkere, Thomas son of Roger, John son of Thomas, John Palmere, Nicholas Wryhte, John son of Ralph, John Waryn, John Chaunterel, and Philip de Kenlowe.

*Biry* (Bury).—Simon Hervi, John Juel, John de Biry, John Baronn, John Boner, William de Ellesworth, Thomas Frere, John Gernorm, John Sabyn, Galfred Haukyn, Richard son of Simon, and Thomas Aspeland.

*Grafh'm* (Grafham).—Vital' le Noble, John Bal, Richard Denton, John Russell, Robert Husec, Roger Baye, Robert in the Hirne, and Hugh atte Nook.

*Bokeden* (Buckden).—William in the Lane, William Orgar, Walter Parker, William Frere, Galfred atte Stile, John Burgeys, John Dande, John Brann, John atte Stile, John le Hunt, Henry Garlyk, and Walter Aubri.

*Brampton.*—John Dike, Peter Boteller, John Wymundle, Robert Rokeby, John de Wolaston, John Outy, Richard Wapp, David de Glendale, John Rokeby, William Aleyn, and John son of Robert.

CHARLES DAWES.

**134.—Monumental Inscriptions in St. Margaret's Church, Lynn, No. 3.—(No. 88, Part IV.)**

21.

Here vnder | lyeth interred the | Body of Edward Clarke |  
M . . . . who finished his | . . . . lyfe the 3 of | . . . . n . . . .  
our Lord | 1669 And 7 sones & on davgh | . . . . his Age 74  
years | . . . . . slepes . . . . . the de . . . . . [FLOOR OF  
SOUTH CHAPEL.]

22.

[Large blue slab with indent of fine brass, to Walter Coney, 1479 which consisted of an effigy under a triple canopy of peculiar form (with some representation in the upper part) with a scroll over the head and surrounded by 19 smaller scrolls and 4 shields; the whole within a margin having the evangelistic symbols at the corners. The inscriptions are thus given in "Taylor's Guide to King's Lynn," p. 19 :—"Hic jacet Walterius Coney, Mercator, hujus ville Lenne quator Maior et Aldermannus Gilde Mercatorie Sanote Trinitatis intra Villam predictan continuo per quator decim Annos et am plus. Qui obiit penultimo die mensis, Septembris, Anno D'ni MCCCCLXXIX" Cujus Anime Propicietur Deus. Amen." (margin) "Sancta Trinitas, unus Deus, misere-re mei Peccatoris." (Scroll over head) "Laus trinitatis." (Smaller scrolls)]. [NEXT LAST S.]

23.

[Indent of



brass inscription.]

[NEXT LAST E.]

24.

Here lyeth interred | the Body of | Mr. Benjamin Holly |

Alderman & twice Mayor | who died the 17<sup>th</sup> Aug. | 1703 | aged 98 years. MARY | the wife of | Mr. Benjamin Holly | Alderman was | Buried 24 Janu | 1672.

[Arms : (below) on a chevron, 3 unicorns' heads erased, impaling on a bend 8 roundles. Crest : a sea lion (?).] [Blue stone, FLOOR OF CHANCEL, NORTH SIDE.]

## 25.

*In Memory of Mary ye Wife of Samuel | Farthing, who dep<sup>d</sup> this life May ye 13<sup>th</sup> 1696 | Aged 32 years. | And also of three of her children.* SAMUEL FARTHING | Merchant, died | July 28, MDCCXXXV | Aged LXXIII.—ELIZABETH his Wife | Daughter of | THOMAS BOURNING | of Southacre Gent. Died | July 27. MDCCXLIV | Aged LXXV. *Here lyeth the Body of Samuel ye son of | Samuel Farthing, & Elizabeth his Wife who | dep<sup>d</sup> this life October ye 8<sup>th</sup> 1718 Aged 14 years.* [Blue stone, FLOOR OF CHANCEL, NORTH SIDE.]

## 26.

Under this Stone lyeth the Body | of | Edward Godham Merchant | who dying beyond the Seas in Norway | by the care | of his loving wife Gardrat | was brought over & here Interred | in this his native place |

Anno { Aetat : 44 :  
Dom : 1704 : Nov : 3<sup>o</sup>

[Arms : above on a cross 5 mullets, impaling 3 long stalked trefoils slipped, on a chief between 2 estoiles, a half moon.] [Blue stone, FLOOR OF NORTH CHAPEL.]

## 27.

[Skull] [under seats] nat. Jan. 17. 1709. [Blue stone FLOOR OF SOUTH CHAPEL.]

## 28.

BENJAMIN HOLLY | Ob. 15 December | 1755 Aged 72. | Here lyeth | ALICE wife of | Benjamin Holly Gent. | and Daughter of Mr. John Richards | of Terrington with | four of their children | who dyed Nov. | 1711 Aged 27 years.

[Arms : (above) on a chevron 3 unicorns' heads erased, impaling

2 bars, on each as many fleurs-de-lys ; crest : a bear passant.]  
[Blue stone, FLOOR OF CHANCEL, NORTH SIDE.]

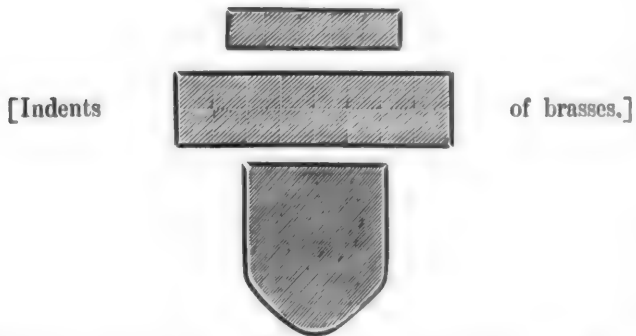
29.

Here lyeth the Body of | JOHN EXTON Senior Gent. | who dep.  
this Life the 11<sup>th</sup> of | . . . . 1729 *Aged 65 years.* | Here lyeth  
the Body of JAMES EXTON | Attorney who departed this Life  
the 5<sup>th</sup> | day of February Anno Domini 1723 | *Aged 24 years* |  
JOHN EXTON ESQUIRE | Twice Mayor | Died 17 March 1759 |  
*Aged LX years.* [Blue stone, FLOOR OF CHANCEL, NORTH SIDE.]

30.

In Memory of | NICHOLAS YOUNG of this Borough, | who died  
in March 1731 *Aged 65.* | and SUSANNA his Wife | Who died in  
February 1734 *Aged 66.* | Also of | MARGARET YOUNG their  
Daughter | who died the 21 : day of August 1764 | *Aged 50.*  
[Blue stone, FLOOR OF CHANCEL, NORTH SIDE.]

31.



WILLIAM HOLLY Gent : | died the 2<sup>d</sup> of April 1735 | *Aged 48*  
*Years.* [Blue Stone, NEXT LAST NORTH.]

32.

SIMON TAYLER Arm : | *Omni laude major* | Obiit Apr. 11.  
1738. Aet 35. | WALTER ROBERTSON Esqr. | twice Mayor of this  
Borough | died Novr. the 9<sup>th</sup> 1772 | *Aged 69.* | ALICE | the eldest  
Daughter of | BENJAMIN HOLLY Esqr. | married first to | SIMON  
TAYLER Esqr. | and afterwards to | WALTER ROBERTSON Esqr. |

died March the 3<sup>rd</sup> 1772 | Aged 64. | In Memory of HOLLY TAYLER, Son of SIMON and | ALICE TAYLER who Dyed August the twenty-first 1735. | *Aged eight Yeares.* | Also of PHÆBE and ELIZABETH TAYLER, Daughters | of the above named, who dyed in their infancy. | Also of CATHERINE TAYLER the Daughter of the above | named who dyed March the thirtieth 1738. | *Aged thirteen years.* | Also of PHÆBE TAYLER the Daughter of the above-named | who dyed October the fifth 1738. *Aged five years* | Also of ANN TAYLER the Daughter of the above-named | who dyed in her Infancy.

[Arms : (at the top) 3 boars' heads coupéd, between 9 cross crosslets 3, 3, & 3 : impaling on a chevron 3 unicorns' heads erased. Crest : A boar's head coupéd.] [Blue stone, FLOOR OF CHANCEL, SOUTH SIDE.]

## 33.

Here lyeth ye Body of Mr. | JOSHUA EDWARDS (Upholster) | who died the 26<sup>th</sup> of November | 1747. AGED 47 YEARS. | Also Here lyeth the Body | of SUSANNA the Wife of | JOHN EDWARD (Carpenter) | who died the 31<sup>st</sup> of December | 1748. AGED 63 YEARS. [Blue stone, FLOOR OF NORTH CHAPEL.]

## 34.

In Memory of MARY the Wife | of Ald<sup>r</sup>. EDWARD EVERARD | and Daughter of BENJAMIN | HOLLY Esqr. She departed | this life the 4<sup>th</sup> day of January | In the thirty-eighth Year of her Age | In the Year of our Lord 1749.

[Arms : a fess between 3 estoiles, impaling, on a chevron 3 unicorns' heads erased. Crest : a man's head in profile, in a cap coupéd at the shoulders.] [Blue stone, FLOOR OF NORTH CHAPEL.]

## 35.

To the Memory | of JOHN FARTHING *Merchant* | Son of SAMUEL & ELIZ. FARTHING | He died *Sept.* 14<sup>th</sup> 1749. Aged 50 Years. [Blue stone, FLOOR OF CHANCEL, NORTH SIDE.]

36.

In Memory | of CHARLES ALLEN *Merchant* | who Departed  
this life | August the 30<sup>th</sup> 1754 | Aged 42 Years. [FLOOR OF  
NORTH CHAPEL.]

37.

Here Lieth Interr'd | MR. JOHN TAYLER Surgeon | who de-  
parted this life | the 14<sup>th</sup> of January 1757. | Aged 34 Years.  
[Blue stone, FLOOR OF SOUTH CHAPEL.]

38.

H. S. E. | JOHANNES MAYER Arm : | . . . . . ; condun . . .  
. . . . . | . . . . . ved. . . . . pre . . . . . | Re . . . . . tium | exper  
. . . . . aratae fidei | P . . . . . or ; | No . . . . . paucis . . . . . benevolus |  
. . . . . lieni . . . . . studiosus ; | Su . . . . . tor ; | Qui tutelis . . . . .  
randis, | (Erant autem . . . . . ectae fidei viro | Pluri . . . . .  
ssae | . usarum . . enuum . . ind . . ss . . . . . | . . . . . d . . . . . p . . . . .  
. . . . . | c . . . . . | . . . . . | tanc . . . . . | Aut  
rei . . . . . isp . . . . . | Aut foeli . . . . . de . . . . . | Orb . . . . . scae  
. . . . . | Ob : Sept. (?) 16. A:D: 1760 (?) Aet : . . . . .

[Arms : (below) sable, on a fess argent between 3 cross crosslets  
or (?); a hurt between 2 foxes (?) gules. Crest : (above) . . . . .]  
[White marble tablet, ON NORTH WALL OF NORTH CHAPEL.]

39.

Vita adamum usque LXXV provecta (?) | prope . . . . . lessimi  
. . . . . | sec . . . . . | JUDITH MAYER | . . . . . |  
XVIII . . . . . MDCC . XI | hospitio . . . . . v . . . . . rim die . . . . . xerat |  
pauperum sex . . . . . captorum | supp . mis . . . . . ascim . . . . .  
. . . . . | s . . . . . predito | fundatrici igitur . . . . . elmine  
lectissimae | in om . . . . . veta | Gratae que erga extinctum volun-  
tates | perituro marmore fixit D. O. M. Dinturniora | vice elogii  
sunto. [Capitals, white marble tablet, ON EAST WALL OF NORTH  
CHAPEL.]

40.

In Memory of | M<sup>r</sup>. GEORGE HOGG | Merchant of this Place |  
who died April 25<sup>th</sup> 1767 | Aged 70 Years. | [Blue stone,  
FLOOR OF NORTH CHAPEL.]



## 41.

Sacred | to the Memory of | ANN, | Wife of GEORGE HOGG Esq<sup>r</sup>.  
Merchant | Happy | in a most amiable disposition | She was |  
Courteous to all | Beneficent without Ostentation | Her Conjugal  
Virtues | Secur'd affection at home | Every ones Love | and  
Esteem attended her abroad | And tho she was | bless'd with the  
greatest affluences, | (a circumstance too apt | to swell the heart  
with pride) | she was adorn'd with a true xtian humility | it  
pleased God | to shorten a good Life here | for a better at the Age  
of 46 | on the 3<sup>d</sup> day of April | 1768. | Reader ! | Animated by  
her Virtues, | Go, and do likewise. | [Blue stone, FLOOR OF  
NORTH CHAPEL.]

## 42.

To the Memory | of EDWARD EVERARD Merchant | Alderman  
and twice Mayor | Of this Corporation | Who departed this Life |  
The 27<sup>th</sup> day of February | In the Year of our LORD 1769 | Aged  
70.

[Arms : (at the top) a fess between 3 estoiles, impaling on a  
chevron 3 unicorns' heads erased. Crest : a man's head, in profile,  
in a cap, coupé at the shoulders. [Blue stone, FLOOR OF NORTH  
CHAPEL.]

## 43.

Here lyeth | Five of the Children of | EDWARD EVERARD |  
*Alderman* ; | and MARY his Wife ; | Who Died in their |  
Infancy. | [Blue stone, FLOOR OF NORTH CHAPEL.]

## 44.

JOSEPHUS TAYLER | Doctor in Medicinâ Apprime Sciens |  
Obiit 3 Martii A.D. 1771 Aetatis 52. | Quem Vivum | Ob Mores  
Suavissimos | Nulli non dilexerunt. | Mortuum | Plorant deplorant  
antque Conjux, | et undecim Liberi, | Deflent Cognati, | Mæren-  
Pauperes, | Lugent Omnes. | Et ANNA Uxor ejus | Obiit 29  
Novemb. Anno Domi 1790 | Ætatis 63.

[Arms : (at the top) 3 boars' heads coupé, between 9 cross  
crosslets 3, 3, & 3 ; impaling a wolf (?) rampant ; in chief, a  
fleurs-de-lys between 2 roundles ; Crest : A boar's head coupé.  
[Blue stone, FLOOR OF CHANCEL, SOUTH SIDE.]

## 45.

THOMAS | Son of | EDMUND and ELIZABETH HOLLAND | Died,  
4<sup>th</sup> June 1776. | Aged 26. | Years. | In Memory of | HENRY  
HOLLAND who Departed | this Life November 24<sup>th</sup> 1786. | Aged  
34 Years. | Also of | MARY his Wife who Departed | this Life  
December 6<sup>th</sup> 1786. | Aged 32 Years.

[Arms : (at the top) a lion rampant gardant, between 9 fleurs  
de lys in orb, a crescent on a mullet for difference. Crest: a lion  
rampant gardant. [Blue stone, FLOOR OF NORTH CHAPEL.]

Rev. R. H. EDLESTON, Cambridge.

135.—Richard Broomhall, Vicar of St. Ives, 1545.—In the  
year 1545 died Richard Broomhall, vicar of St. Ives, who desired  
to be buried ‘in the chancel wherever Sir Edward Colman shall  
thinke most convenient.’ He bequeathed to “the Hyghe Aulter  
xij<sup>d</sup>., to the torches xx<sup>d</sup>., to the bells xx<sup>d</sup>., to the repair of the  
Heighe way under the waytes iiij<sup>s</sup>., iiij<sup>d</sup>., to Jone Jennyngs alias  
Ffygen my trundell bede &c. . . . . to William Ffygen if he will  
fall to grace and sadnesse xx<sup>s</sup>. quarterlie to be paid or ells not.  
To Sir Ed. Colman, the bede that I use to lye in my selfe, with  
all that belonge to the same, my chamdette jackette, my worstede  
doublette, and the vouson of the vicarage of the parish church of  
St. Ives aforesaid, with all the tithe right and interest that I have  
in the said advowson.”

W. M. NOBLE, Ramsey.

136.—Horkey, Hockey, Hawkey.—(No. 114, Part V).—  
Hock Tide was an annual festival which commenced 15 days after  
Easter. That it was long observed and that collections were made  
to a late date is certain, from the churchwardens’ accounts in some  
parishes. Its origin has been much disputed. Being a moveable  
feast dependent on Easter, it would scarcely commemorate some  
fixed event as some have pretended. Brande, in the *Pop. Antiq.*  
discusses it at some length, as also does a writer in *Chambers’  
Book of Days*, p. 498. Hock Tuesday festival is said by some to  
commemorate the massacre of the Danes, and this second Tuesday

after Easter was long held as a festival in England; but it is by many believed that the commemoration of this feast is connected with the pagan superstition of our Saxon forefathers, and, like others, preserved after they became Christians, and its origin was gradually forgotten. Hock money was collected in the parish of St. Giles, 1585, and in the parish of St. Mary. The Bishop of Worcester in 1450 inhibited those "Hork Tyde" practices on the ground that they led to all sorts of dissipation and licentiousness. Horkey is an East Anglian term for Harvest Cart or Harvest Home Festival. It is said to be derived from "hock," high (*German*). The last load is the high load or "horkey load." Bloomfield wrote "The Horkey," a provincial ballad:

"Home came the jovial Horkey load,  
Last of the whole year's crop;  
And *Grace* among the Green Boughs rode  
Right plump upon the top."

Herrick has a poem the "Hock Cart," or Harvest Home, where he says:

"The harvest swains and wenches bound  
For joy—to see the Hock Cart crowned."

Hence the "Potato Horkey" referred to would be the application of a provincial term to the completion of the Potato Gathering. Let the derivation be what it may, I think it has little connection with the Hock Tide or Hoke Tide Festival of which we read in the 15th and 16th centuries, and which may be traced back to the 13th century, if not earlier, and became obsolete early in the last. The Hopper supper was a feast given in Lincolnshire when the sowing was finished. This, with the sheep-shearing or clipping supper and other social gatherings on the farm seem to be lost sight of—events of a past age—and with them is lost much of that fraternal feeling and good fellowship that used to exist between master and man in agricultural districts.

S. EGAR.

137.—*Stilton and Warboys in 1502.*—In 1502, the chaplain of Warboys was one Wm. Wode, and the rector of the church of St. Mary in Stilton was named Richard Waide.

W. M. NOBLE, Ramsey.

138.—**A French Prisoner's Escape from Norman Cross.**—Miss Baker (through the Peterborough Natural History Society) has forwarded us a copy of a pamphlet published in 1828, which professes to give an “Interesting | Narrative | of a | Prisoner's Escape | from | Norman Cross | and | of his subsequent Perilous Adventures | (translated from the French) | Peterborough | Printed and sold by G. Robertson | Bookseller and Stationer | Market Place | 1828 |.” The pamphlet, however, is not what it represents itself to be. It is beyond doubt a mere imaginary sketch. The writer was no French prisoner, but a Mr. Bell, of Oundle, who was a schoolmaster there. The sketch, which does credit to Mr. Bell's power of fiction, was first published in Drakard's Stamford Newspaper, but since then, it has been frequently re-published, and has deceived numerous local and general historians. In the May number for this year (1890) of Cassell's “*World of Adventure*” the pamphlet in question is reproduced as a genuine historical narrative. A close examination of the pamphlet will furnish innumerable proofs of its fictitious origin. Nevertheless, it is not without its historical value, for its topographical description would probably be faithfully portrayed, as Mr. Bell was well acquainted with the district. The following is Mr. Bell's description of the Yaxley Barracks:—

“The English had here upwards of seven thousand prisoners of war, of one nation or other, but chiefly Frenchmen. I will endeavour to describe a few particulars of the place, as well as I can recollect, which may at the same time also serve to illustrate my escape from it.

“The whole of the buildings, including the prison, and the barracks for the soldiers who guarded us, were situated on an eminence, and were certainly airy enough, commanding a full and extensive view over the surrounding country, which appeared well cultivated in some parts: but in front of the prison, to the south east, the prospect terminated in fens and marshes, in the centre of which was a large lake, of some miles in circumference, (Whittlesea Mere). The high road from London to Scotland ran close by the prison, and we could, at all hours of the day, see the

Diligences and other carriages bounding along the beautiful roads of the country with a rapidity unknown elsewhere : and the contrast afforded by contemplating these scenes of liberty continually before our eyes, only served to render the comparison more harrowing to our feelings.

“There was no apparent show about the place of military strength, formed by turreted castles, or by embrasured battlements; in fact, it was little better than an enclosed camp. The security of the prisoners was effected by the unceasing watch of ever-wakeful sentinels, constantly passing and repassing, who were continually changing ; and I have no doubt this mode of security was more effectual than if surrounded by moated walls or by fortified towers. Very few, in comparison of the numbers who attempted it, succeeded in escaping the boundaries, though many ingenious devices were put in practice to accomplish it. However, if once clear of the place, final success was not so difficult.

“The space appointed for the reception of the prisoners consisted of four equal divisions or quadrangles ; and these again were divided into four parts, each of which was surrounded by a high palisade of wood, and paved for walking on ; but the small ground it occupied scarcely left us room to exercise sufficient for our health, and this was a very great privation. In each of these subdivisions was a large wooden building, covered with red tiles, in which we ate our meals and dwelt ; these also served for our dormitories or sleeping places, where we were nightly piled in hammocks, tier upon tier, in most horrible regularity. One of these quadrangles was entirely occupied by the hospital and medical department. A division of another quadrangle was allotted to the officers, who were allowed a few trifling indulgences not granted to the common men, amongst whom I unfortunately was included. In another division was a school, the master of which was duly paid for his attendance ; it was conducted with great regularity and decorum, and there you might sometimes see several respectable Englishmen, particularly those attached to the duties of the prison, taking their seats with the boys to learn the

French language. Another small part was appropriated as a place of closer confinement or punishment, to those who broke the rules appointed for our government, or wantonly defaced any part of the buildings, or pawned or lost their clothes; these last were put, I think, upon two-thirds allowance of provisions, till the loss occasioned thereby was made good; and I must confess this part was seldom without its due proportion of inhabitants. The centre of the prison was surrounded by a high brick wall, beyond which were the barracks for the English soldiers, several guard-houses, and some handsome buildings for both the civil and military officers; whilst a circular block-house, mounted with swivels or small cannon, pointing to the different divisions, frowned terrifically over us, and completed the *outside* of the picture."

With regard to the internal arrangements of the prison and the daily life of the prisoners, Mr. Bell says:—

"On Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday, we had one pound and a half of bread, half a pound of beef, with a proportionate quantity of salt and vegetables, or, if no vegetables could be procured, we had in lieu, pearl barley or oatmeal. On Wednesdays and Fridays we had the usual quantity of bread, one pound of codfish, or herrings, and one pound of potatoes. No ale or beer was served out to us, but we were allowed to purchase it at the canteen in the prison. To ensure to us no fraud or embezzlement, each department or division, sent two deputies to inspect the weight and quality of the provisions, which, if not approved by them, and the agent to the prison, were invariably rejected and returned; and if any difference of opinion existed between the agent and the deputies, a reference was made to the officers on guard at the time, and their decision was final. A regular daily market was held in the prison, where the country people brought a variety of articles for sale, and where every luxury could be purchased by those who had money. Our cooks were appointed from amongst ourselves, and paid by the English government, so that, in regard to diet, we had not much to complain of. The hospital, or medical department, I have heard, (for thank God I was never an inmate of it, except to visit a sick

comrade,) was amply supplied with every necessary and attendance; the nurses being generally selected from the friends of the sick. For our amusement, amongst other things, we had several excellent billiard-tables, very neatly made by the prisoners themselves, which were attended by many English officers and others off duty; but, unfortunately, these were the sources of frequent quarrels and duels, two of which terminated fatally whilst I was there, both between Frenchmen. Having no arms, they affixed the blades of knives, properly sharpened and shaped, to sticks, formed with handles and hilts, with which they fought as with small swords. I was a witness to one of these conflicts, and it sank deep in my memory for many months. It appeared, in some instances, as if confinement had deprived us of the usual humanity of our nature, and hardened our hearts; for some shocking scenes of depravity and cruelty would occasionally take place, which even the counsel and presence of the good and venerable Bishop of Moulins, who voluntarily attended to the religious duties of the prison, could not restrain."

**139.—Robert Rayment of Diddington.**—There was grief and anxiety in the home of Robert Rayment of Diddington on Oct. 7th, 1546, for on that day he and his wife were about parting, he, to the war (with France or Scotland), she, to wait anxiously for the husband that would not return. By his will "he left his bodie to be as it shall please God," and ends his will with the significant words "In warre tyme made."

W. M. NOBLE, Ramsey.

**140.—Abbotsley Church House, 1519.**—Robert Purson, vicar-perpetuel of Abbotsley, died in 1519, leaving "towards the making of the church house in Abbotsley xx qrs. of barley; and a braeyn mortar and a pewter hangyng laver, &c."

W. M. NOBLE, Ramsey.

**141.—Somersham in 1728.**—In 1728 an Act of Parliament was passed for repairing the road between Somersham and Chatteris Ferry. The preamble says: "Whereas the highway or road leading from Chatteris Ferry (which divides the Isle of Ely from the County of Huntingdon) to a place called Somersham Bridge at Somersham Town's End, in the said County of Huntingdon by means of the many heavy carriages and droves of oxen and other cattle frequently passing through, and the floods and inundations of waters often overflowing the said road, is become very ruinous and bad, and many parts, in the winter season, so deep that passengers cannot pass and repass without danger. And whereas the said road cannot by the ordinary course appointed by the laws now in being (for repairing the highways of the kingdom) be sufficiently repaired and amended without some other provision be made by Parliament for raising money to be laid out and be applied for that purpose. To the end therefore that the said road may with all convenient speed be effectually repaired and amended and hereafter kept in good and sufficient repair, so that all persons may pass and repass through the same with safety be it enacted . . . . . that for the better surveying, ordering, repairing, and keeping in repair, the road aforesaid, it shall be in the power of the Right Honourable William Cavendish Esquire (commonly called Lord Marquis of Hartington) son and heir apparent of His Grace the Duke of Devonshire, Sir John Hinde Cotton, Sir John Barnard, baronets, Sir Edward Lawrence, knight, Samuel Sheppard, Henry Bromley, Thomas Bacon, esquires, the Reverend Doctor Richard Bentley, Master of the College of the Holy and undivided Trinity in the University of Cambridge, the Reverend Samuel Knight, Doctor in Divinity, John Bigg, Roger Handasyde, Anthony Hammond, James Forkington, Nicholas Boufoy, Thomas Hammond, John Brownell, Richard Drury, William Thompson, Stevens Bazeley, Charles Green, Roger Thompson, esquires, the Reverend William Leman, clerk, the Reverend William Torkington, clerk, the Reverend Thomas Parrott, clerk; Dingley Askham, senior, Thomas Curtis, Dingley Askham, junior, William Thompson, Lawrence Blatt, Peregrine Doyley, Thomas



Underwood, gentlemen; Jasper Lyster, senior, Jasper Lyster, junior, Thomas Ridley, Thomas Houghton, Thomas Cope, John Kent, John Marriott, John Garner, George Read, John Cole, John Cranwell, John Symons, George Waddington, William Archdeacon, and Bennet Skeeles, who are hereby nominated and appointed trustees for putting this Act in execution." Then follow provisions "for erecting toll-bars, a list of tolls to be charged, &c. It is provided that coaches and passengers may pass toll free on election days, and that the surveyor may dig gravel or other material for repairing the road from any waste land, and failing that upon the lands adjacent to the road. Exemptions of toll are granted to all husbandry teams from Somersham, and it is stipulated that the powers of the Act are all to remain in force for 21 years. The Act also stipulates that the Trustees shall hold their meetings at "the 'Rose and Crown,' in Somersham, or any other house within the parish of Somersham."

J. W. BODGER,

Peterborough Natural History Society.

**142.—Folksworth, 1538.**—Francis Grenc, clerk and parson of Ffolksworth was to be buried in the chancell of the parish church, before the ymage of our blessed lady in the south sede, 1538.

W. M. NOBLE, Ramsey.

**143.—Fen Pumps.**—Old men are yet living who can well remember the days before the "Eau brink cut" and the great "low level" drains effected such a vast improvement. "You see master," said a cheerful rubicund patriarch who had had charge in days gone by of a drainage windmill, "It was just like this. She—alluding to the mill—was going all the winter when she could, but the water all ran back again. It could not get away, and often enough there was no wind for weeks together in the winter time, that's how the land came to be drowned; but, bless you, sir, it is altered now, these steamers can drain every drop out of the land and the rivers are always running." Few of these quaint old-fashioned windmill pumps remain on the land. They

are repaired, indeed, when necessary, but never rebuilt. Steam power is cheaper and more effective, and so an ugly brick engine house with a low chimney which in the winter sends long clouds of smoke across the fen and adds not a little to the dreariness of the landscape, takes the place of the picturesque old-world machine. But you may see them yet on the banks of Vermuden's drain, one behind another, gradually receding into the distance, with their sails swiftly revolving in the face of a November gale. They stand 40 feet high from the brickwork base to the moveable head. Every part is of wood save the foundation. Indeed, in the old days a heavier structure would probably have sunk in a soil, which, to this day, trembles for a furlong or more as the heavy goods trains rumble across the fens. Not until you are close to them can you form an adequate idea of the size of the vast sails—36 feet long and 6 or 7 feet broad. Within is the machinery, simple enough, consisting of a few great beams and massive cog wheels. All is of hard well-seasoned oak. Down the centre of the mill comes a beam which, with the aid of a few wheels, turns the great water wheel, the case of which is a prominent object outside. Thirty feet in diameter are some of these wheels. Their outer circumference studded with boards ("floats" the fenmen call them) which splash the water up out of the dikes to the higher level of the river. The lower part of the mill is usually filled up as a dwelling, a narrow inconvenient one it must be confessed, for the keeper. They are empty all the summer so far as man is concerned, but that kestrel you see hovering in the distance has probably three or four little ones to provide for who are safely housed amongst the great timbers of the roof. Soon after Michaelmas the tenant will take up his abode here, nor will he leave it again till March or April. The work is oftentime no sinecure, especially after heavy rains in "February-fill-dike," when the water is nearly over the young wheat and the winds are light and shifty. Early and late the keeper must be about ready to work round with chain and windlass the great head of his mill, or to get in his canvass should the strong wind increase to a gale. Any reckless handling may cause those great sails to "snap off

short like a carrot," for which he will be called sharply to account before irate commissioners, not gentlemen from London, but fen farmers and landlords who know "the nature of things" and can distinguish accident from carelessness right well. The sails come sweeping down within two feet of the ground, which looks terribly dangerous when the wind brings them straight in front of the door, yet the little children run in and out unconcernedly all the day long. Not a few of those old windmills date back a century and a half and some perhaps even further. What visions do they recall of the olden time, when wheat was never grown on fen land, but only rye and oats were sown cautiously in the spring round the edges of "the grounds."

REV. C. E. WALKER, Rector, March.

**144.—Poulter and Throgmorton Family.**—Richard Pulter, of Broughton, who died in 1490, still has representatives of the same name living within a few miles of Broughton; and we find a Throgmorton at the same place in 1541, probably an ancestor of the Mr. Throgmorton, of Warboys, who accused a family there of witchcraft in 1598.

The family of Poulter above-mentioned intermarried in the 16th century with the Bevyill's of Chesterton, a monument to one of whom is still in Chesterton church. The Bevyill's were also connected with the Drewells or Druels, one of whom was an M.P. for the county of Huntingdon.

W. M. NOBLE, Ramsey.

**145.—Labeleye's View of the Fens, 1745.**—In July, 1745, Charles Labeleye, the engineer, was desired by the Duke of Bedford and the gentlemen of the corporation of the Fens to make a report of the then existing state of the Fens. A copy of this pamphlet, printed by George Woodfall, at the King's Arms, near Cragg's Court, Charing Cross, is now in the possession of Lord Esmé Gordon, who has kindly placed it at our disposal.

On the title page Labeleye quotes the following remark from the Commissioners of Sewers in 1596:—"These fenny surrounded

grounds in former times have been dry and profitable, and so may be hereafter, if due provision is made." The writer opens his remarks by a few sentences addressed "to the reader," in which he relates how it was he came to be connected with the Fens. He says:—"In the summer of the year 1743 I had occasion to travel on horseback, and in company with some friends, from Cambridge to Lynn; to make my travelling instructive, I prevailed with my friends that we should go through the great level of the Fens. . . . The Fens were then in a most beautiful condition, and so dry, that from Cambridge to Denvers Ferry our horses had but once occasion to wet their hoofs in wading through waters." That is all Mr. Labelye tells us of that journey except that he made observations and asked "abundance of questions" about the Fens. But not being wholly satisfied, he commenced to collect and read all books and pamphlets he could collect relating to the district. After some general remarks upon the various drainage schemes that had been carried out, he proceeds to state:—"In June last [he is writing under date Aug. 8, 1745] His Grace the Duke of Bedford, governour of the corporation of the great level of the Fens, was pleased (without any solicitation of mine, or of any of my friends) to do me the honour of proposing to the corporation at their last annual court, that I should be desired to take a view of the Fens and to give my opinion relative to Mr. Leaford's scheme.\* The corporation agreed to it, and His Grace obtained for me from the Right Honourable the Commissioners for building Westminster Bridge a leave of absence for a short time." He then proceeds to speak of his second visit to the district. He says:—"I set out the latter end of June last for the Fens, which I found—especially the south level—in a most deplorable condition." Having reported the result of his visit to this part of the district he was desired to take a view of the remaining part of the Fens. The result of these views is contained in the pamphlet of which the "To the reader" forms an introduction. Among his observations are the following:—

\* See F. N. & Q., part V., No. 113.

"From what I saw of Mere Drain at Gunthorpe Sluice, and information I had about Thorney, I believe the north level may be kept drained much easier than the other levels . . . . When I saw the Nean at Peterboro, which is there a very good river, and remembered its pitiful remains at Wisbeach and Salter's Load, I could not help making several melancholy reflexions on the fatal consequences of diverting or rather annihilating, as it were, good rivers by traveling them into several pitiful streams or slackers."

After giving some opinions in detail, he proceeds to give "a report touching Lynn navigation." He says that only a part of the report was inserted in Mr. Badeslade's History of the Navigation of Lynn," and the two last paragraphs "for very obvious reasons" were omitted altogether. Further on there is a piece entitled "a desperate and dangerous design discovered concerning the fen countries."

Mr. Labeleye then proceeds to give a detailed report of the condition of the Fens as he found them at that time. He says that the greatest part of them which two years ago had been in a "most fruitful and beautiful condition were "deeply overflowed." The banks with few exceptions were in a very bad condition, most of them full of breaches or considerably wounded, and in many places, especially on the south side of the river Ouse, there was hardly the appearance of any bank left for miles together. In many places the beds of the rivers were higher than the general level of the fens. Where the banks were tolerably good, the owners threw the waters out of the fen into the rivers by means of windmills, but this system was not always successful. All the locks, shields, draw-doors, and other artificial works, with the single exception of Stanground, were in a decaying condition.

**146.—St. Ipolett.**—Can any reader identify the place-name of St. Ipolett in Huntingdonshire? I find in 1523 Robert Calpy, vicar of St. Ipolett, co. Hunts. W. M. NOBLE, Ramsey.

**147.—The Whittlesey Mere Censers.**—The two ancient silver censers found in the bed of Whittlesey Mere about 50 years ago,

when it was being drained at the expense of the late Mr. William Wells, of Holme Wood, Peterborough, were, according to announcement, sold by Messrs. Christie, Manson, and Woods, of London, on Tuesday, June 2nd, 1890, in presence of a very full attendance, among whom were Mr. A. W. Franks, of the British Museum, the Duke of St. Albans, Lord Rosebery, Lord Powerscourt, and Sir George Wombwell. After nearly a hundred lots of the fine old silver plate belonging to the late Mr. Wells, of Holme, had been disposed of, came the thurible or censer of Gothic design and silver gilt, with chain all perfect. It is considered to be of English workmanship of the time about the end of the reign of Edward III., who died 1377, being found with the incense boat, which has the Tudor rose upon it and the rams' heads indicating that it belonged to Ramsey Abbey, it is no doubt correctly supposed to have come from the same abbey, which has long been ruined. It will be found figured in Shaw's "Decorated Arts of the Middle Ages," and it is also described in the *Archæological Journal* of 1851. It is 11 inches high, on a circular foot  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches in diameter. When it was placed before the audience there was some cheering, and the first bid was made of £500, which in the next three bids rose to £1,000, the only competitors being Mr. C. Davis and Mr. Boore, the well-known expert, who however, did not advance beyond Mr Davis's bid of £1,155, at which sum he was the purchaser. The ship or incense boat, more properly a "naviculare," with its double Tudor rose in gilt on the cover, and the rams' heads and *ondée* ornament denoting the sea, which was much admired as a most interesting example of English work of the early Tudor period not later than 1486. It is 11 inches in length, and 3 inches high, standing on a hexagonal foot of elegant form. There were several competitors for the possession of this, but after £400 had been bid there were only Mr. Boore and Mr. Davis, who was again the purchaser at the price of £900. Much interest was felt as to whether the purchase had been made for the British Museum, as Mr. Franks was present, but from all that could be gathered it was for a private collector.

*The Times.*

148.—**Huntingdonshire Livings in 1291.**—In the year 1288 Pope Nicholas IV. granted the tenths of all ecclesiastical benefices to King Edward I. for six years towards defraying the cost of an expedition to the Holy Land, and in order that they might be collected to their full value, a taxation by the King's precept was begun in 1288, and finished, as far as the province of Canterbury was concerned, in 1291; the whole being under the direction of John, Bishop of Winchester, and Oliver, Bishop of Lincoln. The particulars of this levy are still preserved, and printed transcripts of the original manuscripts may be seen in the British Museum. These records are of great interest at the present time as they give us the exact annual value of almost all the church livings in the different counties six hundred years ago. Huntingdonshire at this time belonged to the extensive diocese of Lincoln, and the following particulars are copied, as they stand, from the returns furnished by the authorities of that diocese. The livings are given under their respective deaneries, all being included in the archdeaconry of Huntingdon.

<i>Decanatus Huntyngdon.</i>		£.	s.	d.
Ecclesia Bte. Marie Huntyngdon, deduct. porc. Vicar	...	4	13	4
Pens. Abbis de Thorneya in Ecclesia } oim Scor de eadem indecimali }	.....	10	0	0
Item pens. prioris de Huntyngdon in eadem.....		10	0	0
Ecclesia prebendal. de Brampton .....		35	6	8
Vicar ejusdem .....		4	13	4
Summa.....	45—13—4			

<i>Decanatus de Jackelle (Yaxley).</i>		£.	s.	d.
Ecclesia de Jackele, deduct. pens. ....		35	6	8
Pens. Abbis de Thornye in eadem .....		1	6	8
Ecclesia de Staneground deduct. pens. ....		20	0	0
Pens. Abbis de Thorneye in eadem.....		4	13	4
Ecclesia de Flecton.....		6	13	4
Ecclesia de Woodstun, deduct. pens.....		8	0	0
Pens. Abbis de Thorneya in eadem.....		6	8	
Ecclesia de Botelbrigg, deduct. pens. indecimali .....		5	6	8
Ecclesia de Overton Longvile, deduct. porc. ....		6	13	4
Porc. prioris Huntingdon in eadem .....		1	10	0

Ecclia de Folksworth, deduct. pens. ....	6	13	4
Pens. Abbis Croyland in eadm. ....	6	8	
Item, pens. prioris de Northwood in eadem .....	13	4	
Ecclia de Overton Wat'vile, deduct. porc. ....	10	0	4
Porcis prioris de Huntyngdon in eadem.....	1	0	0
Ecclia de Alwalton .....	9	6	8
Ecclia de Gestreton, deduct. pens. et porc.....	12	0	0
Pens. prioris de Cruce Roys in eadem .....	2	0	0
Porc. prioris de Huntingdon in eadem .....	1	0	0
Item, porc. Abbis de Thorneye in eadem .....	1	10	0
Ecclia de Stibyngton, deduct. pens. et porc. ....	12	0	0
Pensio Abbis de Thorneye in eadem .....	13	4	
Porc. Elemosinar. ejusdem dom. in eadem .....	1	0	0
Ecclia de Newton, deduct. pens.....	6	13	4
Pens. Abbis de Thorneya in eadem .....	1	9	8
Ecclia de Aylington, deduct. pens.....	23	6	8
Pens. Abbis Rameseye in eadem .....	3	6	8
Ecclia de Haddon, deduct. pens. ....	10	13	4
Pens. Abbis de Thorneya in eadem .....	5	0	
Ecclia de Morborn, deduct. pens. ....	6	13	4
Pensio Abbatis Croyland in eadem.....	1	6	8
Ecclia de Nassingle, deduct. porc.....	6	13	4
Porcio prioris de Huntingdon in eadem. Item porcio } ajusdem prioris in ecclia de Caldecote indecimali .....		6	8
Ecclia de Denton.....	4	13	4
Ecclia de Stilton, deduct. porc. ....	6	13	4
Porcio prioris de Huntyngdon in eadem .....	10	0	
Ecclia de Glatton, deduct. pens. et porc. ....	21	3	4
Pens. Abbis de Missenden in eadem .....	4	0	0
Porcio Abbatis de Brunna in eadem .....	1	10	0
Ecclia de Conyngton .....	20	0	0
Ecclia omnium Scor de Saltreya .....	8	0	0
Ecclia Sçi. Andree de Saltreya, deduct. porc. ....	6	13	4
Porcis prioris de Huntyngdon in eadem .....	1	0	0
Ecclia de Walton.....	6	13	4



<i>Decanatus Sci Joonis (St. Ives).</i>	£	s.	d.
Ecclia de Wardeboys, deduct. pens. ....	20	0	0
Pens. Abbatis Rameseye in eadem .....	2	0	0
Ecclia de Bouhton, deduct. pens. ....	13	0	8
Pens. Abbis Rameseye in eadem.....	13	4	
Ecclia de Somersham .....	33	6	8
Ecclia de Bluntesham .....	13	6	8
Ecclia de Houghton Wytton, deduct. pens. ....	33	6	8
Pens. Abbis de Rameseye in eadem .....	1	0	0
Ecclia de Hertford .....	8	13	4
Ecclia de Stivecle Maiore, deduct. pens. ....	15	6	8
Pens. prioris Scs. Andree Norhmpston in eadem .....	1	16	8
Vicar ejusdem .....	4	6	4
Ecclia de Stivecle Minor.....	10	13	8
Ecclia de Halliwelle.....	13	6	8
Ecclia de Wistowe, deduct. pens. ....	5	6	8
Pens. Abbis Rameseye in eadem.....	6	8	
Ecclia de Rypton, Reg. ....	8	13	4
Ecclia de Rypton Abbis .....	23	6	8
Ecclia Sci. Jvonis cum centu solam } abbis Rameseye in vicar ejusdem }	25	0	0
Vicar ejusdem .....	5	0	0
Ecclia Rameseye Parochial .....	6	0	0
Ecclia de Byri cum capsell. } de Wystowe, Upwode et Ravele }	23	13	0

Sm<sup>a</sup>.....267—10—0

This appears to be the first taxation of ecclesiastical benefices in Huntingdonshire, and subsequent levies up to the time of the compilation of the *Valor Ecclesiasticus* in the reign of Henry VIII. are based on the returns here given.

CHAS. DAWES.

149.—**State Prisoners in Wisbech Castle.**—(No. 36, Part II.)—The following appeared in the *Wisbech Advertiser*, on August 20th, 1870 :—That many prisoners were consigned to long terms of imprisonment in the unhealthy dungeons of the ancient Castle of Wisbech is amply established by historical

record. One of our readers has handed to us an extract respecting one of these famous captives, John de Feckenham, who not only suffered imprisonment in Wisbech Castle, but died there. The extract is as follows :—

John Feckenham was imprisoned in the Tower of London, in the time of Henry VIII. and Edward VI. He was Queen's Chaplain during Mary's reign, Dean of St. Paul's, and was appointed Abbot of Westminster Abbey in 1556. He preached Mary's funeral sermon. Because he would not become a Protestant he was imprisoned by Elizabeth for 23 years, first at the Tower, then under Horn (Bishop of Winchester), and again at the Tower. He was released for a time and resided at Holborn and Bath. He was, however, again imprisoned, and died in the unhealthy dungeons of Wisbech Castle in 1585.

This John de Feckenham, who succumbed to the horrors of the Castle dungeons, was probably of Norfolk origin, as his name, John of Fakenham, implies. Many other ecclesiastics suffered a like miserable fate, as will be gathered in the researches made by Mr. R. B. Dawbarn, embodied in a paper (read before the Royal Archæological Society when its members assembled at Wisbech), in which it was shown that political and religious prisoners were frequently incarcerated there, and that it was the scene of fierce faction disputes and plots. The following is an extract from the paper :—

In the time of Queen Mary, William Wolsey and Robert Piggott were confined in it prior to their execution at the stake for heresy. In the reign of Elizabeth, James I., and Charles I., many Roman Catholic prisoners were shut up here, and several noteworthy ecclesiastics died at Wisbech in captivity, and are buried in the churchyard. Among them are the two Bishops of Lincoln, Thomas White and Thomas Watson, the latter said to be the last of the ancient Romish hierarchy in England. John de Feckenham, or Fakenham, Abbot of Westminster and Queen Mary's private confessor, also died here in 1585. One prisoner a Jesuit father, William Weston, *alias* Edmunds, the friend of Garnet and Southwell, was confined eleven years in this building,

and has left behind him a very interesting autobiography, under the title, *Troubles of our Catholic Forefathers*, and edited by Father Morris. Weston, suspected of participation in the Babington plot, was shut up in London, in the Clink, and afterwards in the Tower. His confinement at Wisbech Castle came between his imprisonment in the two above-named gaols. About a dozen co-religionists were sent into captivity with him, and during his stay from thirty to forty prisoners, on an average, were shut up in Wisbech Castle. He says the building itself stood upon a high terrace, surrounded by a moat full of water, and he refers to the great hall and other buildings as large, but everything was then in a ruinous state, which he attributed to the rapacity of the heretical prelates, who stripped the lead, iron, and glass from the building for their own gain. The dilapidation was so serious that a portion of the roof of the prisoners' lodgings fell in, but fortunately when they were absent. Compared with other prisons then in use, Wisbech was not a place of cruel duration to the Catholics, and the discipline became laxer as time wore on. The burden of their maintenance was defrayed by themselves, and twelve shillings per month was the sum paid by each. But from the first they were allowed to take their meals together in the common hall. Opportunity was given for exercise, and friends were allowed to visit them. The governor and the population of the district were exceedingly puritanical in their opinions, and sternly repressed all attempts at proselytism. Two servant lads in the Castle, whom the prisoners converted, on refusing to abjure their faith in Romanist doctrines, were flogged publicly upon the Market-place by the Governor. It is not impossible that the notorious Gunpowder Plot owed its origin to the association maintained in Wisbech Castle between two of its promoters. Robert Catesby and Francis Tresham, the arch-conspirators, were confined here together in the reign of Elizabeth. An address congratulating the Crown, in the time of Charles I., on the compulsion of the Catholics, and referring to some of them then confined at Wisbech, is probably the last known mention of Wisbech Castle as a political or religious prison.

**150.—Jubilee of George III. at Deeping.**—We are told that a donation of a quart of ale, a pound of meat, and a shilling loaf was delivered to every man in the parish who chose to accept it, and the like quantity of meat and bread, and a pint of ale to every woman and child, and such a quantity of ale was allotted for gratuitous distribution in the evening that two barrels remained over and above what could be consumed. A Ball took place at the New Inn in the evening, and the Lodge of Odd Fellows in the town, and the post office were illuminated.

**151.—Raining Wheat at Bourn.**—The following is taken from "Admirable Curiosities," dated 1728. "April 26th, 1661, at Bourn, in Lincolnshire, it rained wheat; some grains were thin and hollow, others firm, and would grind into flour. Pecks of it were taken from off church leads and other houses leaded, and several who were eye witnesses brought up quantities to London,"

**152.—A Curious Superstition at Boston.**—On Sunday, Sept. 29th, 1860, a strange portent occurred. A cormorant took up its position on the steeple of Boston Church, much to the alarm of the superstitious among the townspeople. There it remained with the exception of two hours absence till early the following morning, when it was shot by the caretaker of the church. The fears of the credulous were singularly confirmed when the news arrived of the loss of the "Lady Elgin" at sea, with three hundred passengers, among whom were Mr. Ingram, member for Boston, with his son, on the very morning when the bird was first seen.

NEWELL EDIS, Stamford.

**153.—A Previous Restoration of Crowland Abbey.**—I believe there was a partial restoration of Crowland Abbey about 1816. Are there any records of what was done at that time?

F.S.A., Birmingham.

**154.—Moated Houses in the Fenland.**—I am told that the Fenland supplies extremely few instances of moated mansions. Can any one explain why?

FENMAN,

155.—Monumental Inscriptions in St. Margaret's Church,  
Lynn, No. 4.—(No. 134, Part VI.)

46.

.....M | .....aughter of | ... OPHIA HOGG | ... Feb<sup>r</sup>. 1778 |  
... on ths . [FLOOR OF NORTH CHAPEL, partly covered by organ.]

47.

In Memory of | ANN MAY who died | October 17<sup>th</sup> 1780. |  
Aged 78 Years. | Also ELIZABETH MAY | who died Aug<sup>r</sup> 28<sup>th</sup>  
1788 | Aged 89 Years. [White marble.] [On the same (blue)  
slab lower down] ..... this townc | And ..... [FLOOR OF  
NORTH CHAPEL, worn.]

48.

STEPHEN HOGG Gentleman | died the 29<sup>th</sup> day of April 1785 |  
in the 36 Year of his Age. | Also SOPHIA his Widow | ... at  
CREDITON, DEVON, | 1-November 1838, | Aged 85 Years. | Also  
in Memory of | FREDERICK ALLEN HOGGE, | their Grandson, |  
who died in CHINA | 12<sup>th</sup> February 1839, | Aged 19 Years. [Blue  
stone, FLOOR OF NORTH CHAPEL.]

49.

JOHN CASTLETON Esq<sup>r</sup> | Merchant | died June 5<sup>th</sup> 1788. | Aged  
40 Years. [Blue Stone, FLOOR OF NORTH CHAPEL.]

50.

In Memory of | COOKE WATSON E... | who died the 25<sup>th</sup> DaY  
of Ja.... | In the 76<sup>th</sup> Year of his ... | S. M. | PHEBE COOKE et  
ALICE W.... | Filiæ quæ obiit 14<sup>o</sup> | Septembris A. D. 1790  
A... | JOHANNES JEFFERY WAT.... | Obijt 3 Martij A.D. 1... |  
Æt. 30, | Also PHEBE WATSON | Aunt to the above | Died 23  
May 1801 | Aged 70. [Blue Stone, FLOOR OF CHANCEL, NORTH  
SIDE, partly covered.]

51.

Sacred to the Memory of | The Rev<sup>d</sup>. DAVID LLOYD L.L.D. |  
of Jesus College Oxford | Master of the Grammar-School in this  
Town | for 34 Years. | Who departed this Life, Nov<sup>r</sup> 19<sup>th</sup> 1794. |  
Aged 60 Years. | In Him were united, with all the Virtues of  
private | Life, those inestimable Qualities, which ought ever | to  
characterize the Instructor of Youth. | To the Authority of a

Tutor, He added the | Tenderness of a Father. | *Multis Ille bonis febilis occidit!* [Arms: (at the top) 3 lions in pale séjant, impaling; a lion rampant between 3 arrows, on a chief 3 roundles. Crest: a lion passant]. [Blue stone, FLOOR OF CHANCEL, SOUTH SIDE.]

52.

In Memory of | William Wardell | Who Died January 2<sup>d</sup> 1798. | Aged 43 Years. [Capitals, blue stone, FLOOR OF SOUTH CHAPEL.]

53.

..... | ..... c | ..... i | ..... [Blue Stone, nearly covered by seats, FLOOR OF SOUTH CHAPEL.]

54.

May 6<sup>th</sup> 1774 | Died ANN the Wife of | WALTER ROBERTSON. | March 22. 1799 . . 1<sup>st</sup> ANN HAYLETT Widow | . . Mother of the above. | October 20<sup>th</sup> 1808 died. | VALTER ROBERTSON Esq<sup>r</sup>. | Aged 69 Years. | April 19<sup>th</sup> 1804 died | JAMES BRYANT Gent: | Aged 40 Years. [Blue Stone, (partly covered,) FLOOR OF CHANCEL, SOUTH SIDE.]

55.

In Memory of | DOROTHY Daughter of | GEORGE and DOROTHY HOGG | who died 28<sup>th</sup> March 1798 | Aged 23 years. [Blue stone, FLOOR OF NORTH CHAPEL.]

56.

..... | of MARY ..... | Ma ..... | w ..... | the .... | To the Gr .... | of H .... [Blue stone, FLOOR OF NORTH CHAPEL, partly covered by organ.]

57.

Here lyeth t . . | TIMOTHY HEALEY | ..... [FLOOR OF NORTH CHAPEL, partly under cupboard.]

58.

SARAH CHABERT | *Wife of* PHILIP CHABERT Esq. | ..... [Blue stone, FLOOR OF NORTH CHAPEL, partly under cupboard.]

59.

M<sup>r</sup>. STEPHEN .... | M ..... | who Dep .... | August .... | Aged .... | MA ..... | born 14<sup>th</sup> ..... | died 25<sup>th</sup> ..... | [Blue stone, FLOOR OF NORTH CHAPEL, partly covered.]

60.

GEOR . . . . . | Mayor. . . . | Wh. . . . | In the . . . . [Blue stone, FLOOR OF NORTH CHAPEL, partly covered.]

61.

SUSANNA ALLEN | the tender Mother of twelve Children | born 23 October, 1755; | *died* 7 November, 1816. | SUSANNA. | Daughter of STEPHEN & SUSANNA ALLEN | born 23 July, 1785; | *died* 30 March, 1820. | STEPHEN ALLEN, CLK. | *Died* 15. March 1847, | Aged 92. | Minister of this Parish | for 56 Years. | —“as in Adam all die, so in CHRIST shall | all be made alive.” [Blue stone, FLOOR OF CHANCEL, NORTH SIDE.]

62.

S. A. | 1820. [NEXT LAST NORTH.]

63.

SACRED | to the memory of | Sir WILLIAM HOSTE, Bar' R.N. K.C.B. K.M.T. | second son of the REV<sup>D</sup> DIXON HOSTE, rector of | Godwick and Tittershall, and MARGARET, his Wife | born on the 26<sup>th</sup> of August 1780 at Ingoldisthorpe | in the County of Norfolk, died on the 6<sup>th</sup> December | 1828, in London. He began his naval career, | under Lord Nelson he was present at the battle | of the Nile and for his gallant conduct in that | glorious victory was appointed to the command of | the Mutine brig, his most brilliant action was the | famous victory off the isle of Lissa March 13<sup>th</sup> 1811, | when in command of the British Squadron consisting of | three frigates and a brig he defeated the entire | Franco-Venetian Squadron consisting of six frigates and | five smaller sail. In 1814 with only the 38-gun frigate | Bacchante and the 18-gun brig-sloop Saracen he | besieged the fortresses of Cattaro and Ragusa on | the coast of Dalmatia the former mounting 90 | guns and the latter 134 both of which surrendered | after a 10 days cannonade. His health fell a victim | to his constant labours and anxieties which ended | only at the peace of Europe. His private character | was of such beauty and excellence as to | raise feelings of the warmest love | and admiration in the hearts of all who knew him. [Capitals.]

In memory of | the late | Rear Admiral Sir WILL<sup>M</sup> | GEO<sup>R</sup>.  
 LEGGE HOSTE BAR<sup>T</sup> | eldest son of the above | born March 19<sup>th</sup>  
 1818, | died Sept<sup>r</sup> 10<sup>th</sup> 1868. | also of | THEODORE ORFORD |  
 RAPHAEL HOSTE, his brother | born July 1<sup>st</sup> 1819, died April  
 15<sup>th</sup> 1835, on board H.M. Frigate | Volage in the Mediterranean. |  
 cut off like a flower. [Capitals, under the former inscription.]  
 [Large white marble tablet, on WEST WALL OF NORTH TRANSEPT ;  
 it was intended to be placed in Sandringham Church, but was  
 found too heavy for the walls of that church.]

64.

SACRED | to the memory of | HARRIET | youngest daughter of  
 the late | George Hogg Esq<sup>re</sup> | and the beloved and affectionate  
 wife of | Thomas Ingle M.D ; | who died suddenly at la Hague  
 House | St<sup>t</sup> Peters, in the Isle of Jersey, | on the 28<sup>th</sup> of May  
 1842, | aet 48. [Capitals, white marble tablet, on NORTH WALL  
 OF NORTH CHAPEL.]

65.

To the Glory of GOD | and | In memory of | MARY ELIZABETH  
 KENDALL | who died March 1<sup>st</sup> 1870 | these columns with the  
 capitals and arch | were restored in the same year | by her  
 husband and children. [Brass plate, ON SOUTH EAST PIER OF  
 CENTRAL TOWER.]

66.

To the Glory of God and in loving memory of their Parents  
 William Everard | fifteen years Churchwarden of this Parish,  
 born May 19 1747 died April 3 1861 | buried in the Cemetery  
 Kings Lynn, and Harriet his wife born October 29 | 1800, died  
 May 12 1872, buried in the churchyard Ilfracombe. | This font  
 is dedicated by three sisters their surviving children A.D. 1874.  
 [Black letter, brass plate on side of step to Font, South Side.]

67.

To the glory of God | and as a Thank offering from Lynn |  
 and West Norfolk to HIM, who spared | the life of his royal  
 highness | Albert Edward Prince of Wales | in perilous sickness.  
 this Church was | restored to its ancient Proportions | by Volun-  
 tary Contributions, at a cost | including special gifts, of £8000, |



the sum of £1680, being provided by two | Art Loan Exhibitions, the Church was | re-opened by the Bishop of Norwich | March 31<sup>st</sup> 1875. [Black letter.]

Architects: George Gilbert Scott & Ewan Christian. | Builders: J. Bell & Sons. | Secretary of Art Loan exhibitions: George William Page. | John Durst, Vicar.

Samuel Hayden, }  
Frederick Kendle, } Churchwardens.

[Capitals.] [Brass plate on north side of N.E. Pier of SOUTH WEST TOWER.]

68.

✠ To the Glory of God | and in loving memory of John Bray died Jan 31<sup>st</sup> 1683. [Capitals, at the bottom of stained glass window in NORTH AISLE.]

R. H. EDLESTON, Gainford, Darlington.

156.—**Croyland Notes, No. 4.**—(No. 126, Part VI.)—Vpon this greate victory (as the Croylanders vaunted) one Mr. Jackson, a minister, then in the towne, drew the people into the Church, where he made them certayne collectes by way of thankfulnessse for their good successe: the most part of the night following was spent in drinking, reuiling, and rayleing vpon the p'lament and Roundheads as if they had offered some extraordinary sacrifice to Barkchus, insomuch that there was scarcse a sober man in the whole towne amongst them. And since we are fallen into the mention of Mr. Jackson, we cannot omit some passages of his: he was formerly a greate incendiary in another place some 10 miles from Croyland, where he stired vp the people in a dangerous and rebellious manner to take vp armes agaynst the p'lament, and drew many of good estates into action vnder the command of Captayne Welby, but God was pleased timely to rout that Company without much losse of blud: upon the defeat there Mr. Jackson with some others sheltered themselves at Croyland, where, what by preaching and what by priuate p'swading, he was a cheefe instrument of stiring vp the people of Croyland to take vp arms and to commit such outrages as they did: the last sabboth that

we weare prisoners there he preached, and in his sermon did mightily incourage the people to play the men, commending them highly for there currence and vallour in the former encounter, and p'swaded them by many arguments to goe on in there resolution, saying that the cause was God's, and that He had fought for them and woold doe so still, and that all the good people of the land prayed for them, he sayd also those holy stones pray for you, these holy books pray for you, wch your enymyes teare in peeces to Light Tobacco withall, the holy vestments pray for you, that holy table prayes for you, wch they in many places make an horse Racke, yea, the saynts in heauen pray for you, bnt of this enough and too much. To proceed in our relation, we heard no more of our frends coming to releue vs till tuesday, the 25th of Aprill, and then the towne was assaltd on 3 sides by parte of the regiments of those noble gentlemen, Coronel Sr Miles Hubbert, Coronel Sir Anthony, and Coronel Cromwell: when the forces adu(a)nced something nere the towne, Mr. Ram was agayne called for and brought out of his lodging and carried with al speede to the north 'Bulworke, and being very straitly pinnioned, he was layd within the worke vpon the wet ground, where he layd by the space of 5 hours, often entreateing that he might be set vpon the Bulworks by reason of the numnesse of his Limbs and his extreame wearinesse with lying so long in that posture, but they would not suffor him, the reason we conceaue was for that our frends thretened to giue noe quarter if any of vs weare agayne set vpon the bulworks: that tuesday proued a very windy wet day, and so continued till thirsday Morneing, that most of our companeyes weare forced to quit there morish roten quarters and retreat, onely some sma! partyes on the west and south held them in exercise day and night; most p't of that time, through the weather was very extreame and they had no shelter to defend them from it: on Thirsday, in the afternoon, al the companyes were drawne downe upon the Q . . . . . onely the towne is accessable, . . . . . who so plyed the Croylanders vpon euery quarter that there harts began to fayle, diuerse of them stealing away into the couerts and Morish grounds on the East side of the towne (wch they call . . . . ., so famous

for fish and fowle) and many more that night followed there fellows : on the fryday Morneing, those few that remayned set the best face they could vpon so bad a busynesse and seemed as if they woold fight it out to a man, but before daylight they moued for a treaty, wch being granted they sent there vnreasonable propositions, wch being tourne a sunder and scorned, our men advanced and entered the towne without any opposition, some of the cheefe actors got away, yet some weare taken in the towne, and many more since in seuerall places in the Country a bout : Capt<sup>n</sup>. Styles, Lieutenant Auburne, of Linn, Thos. Bowre, a scriuener of London, Mr. Jackson, the minister of flecte, Mr. William Baldwer, and some 3 or 4 more, are now prisoners at Cambridge, some are committed to the prouest marshal of Spalding. Of Croyland onely one was slayne and one Hurt, of our men weare killed 5, and some 18 or 20 wounded, whereof some since deade, there wounds being incurable by reason of there poysoned bullets. 10 Champt Bullets weare found in one man's pocket, some of there Musquets being drawne by our men had such Bullets in them, and abundance of the same sort found by our Souldiers. The principalest man we lost was Mr. Nicholas Norwood, a gentleman exceeding zealous and actiue in this and other seruices, he dyed of a shot in the shoulder some 5 or 6 days after, and was much Lamented by al that knew him, and his forwardnesse for the publick cause. Thus it pleased the Lord to deliivr vs out of our imprisonment and miraculusly to preserue those that weare appointed to dye, for wch we desire to blesse his name for euer, and blessed be the Lord for rayseing vp so many noble gentlemen and worthy frends not onely of our Neybours in the Country round about vs, but of other p'ts far diastant from vs, who, with wonderful currage and resolution, ingaged themselues to releue us or to dye in the place.

The Copy of the Letter wch Mr. Ram had sent to Croyland, wch they pretended to be the cause of that madnesse agaynst him : "As one that truly desires your peace and welfare, I aduenture once more to write vnto you. My busynesse at this time is to intreate you to accept of the aduise of a frend, who, though

but a stander by, p'haps sees more than you that play the game, I beseech you consider how dangerously you runn the Hazerd both of your liues and fortunes in this Course you take: doe you thinke to take vp armes, to make bulworkes and fortifications without commission, to disobey all warrants and commands are not very high contempts, can you Imagine that the p'lament or the committy at Lincoln can indure such affronts, or can you thinke to defend your selues agaynst such forces as may easily and spedyly be raysed agaynst you, surely your nombers and preparations are not so greate but that a smal poure may preuayle agaynst you, neyther is your towne so inaccessible but that it may be approached many wayes, a peece of ordenance will soone batter downe your houses at 2 or 3 miles distance. Besides it is possible in a very short time to famish your towne by cutting of all supp'yes of corne and other prouison. P'haps you expect some forces from other p'ts that wil come in to your aydes, p'haps they wch haue so promised you wil not or cannot be so good as there words, or if they be, surely Croyland is not able to receiue at least to maynetayne any considerable number of men. Good neybour, thinke seriously on these things, and doe not desperately ruin your selues and your posterity, but herken timely to the counceles of peace. I know your plea is that you doe stand vpon your owne good in defence of your selues and estates: so pleaded O. H, so pleaded C: and so pleaded al that stand out with the p'lament, but the p'lament allowes of no such plea, neyther will it indure to be so contemned, assure your selues that if the forces of Linn, Canbridg, Northampton, Notingham, Lincolne, Boston, and Spalding, be able to reduce you to the p'laments obedience or Justice, you will not escape them: my counsel therefore is that you woold play the p'ts of wise men, lay downe your armes and submit your selues, listen not to them that aduise you to stand out, they will be the first that will forsake you. Let those that weare named in the last warrant present them selues to the committy without delay, it will be the best dayes worke that euer you did, and if they will be pleased to make vse of me, I will doe therein the best seruice I can, not doubting but I shal obtayne there peace vpon fayre

termes. Thus beseeching the God of peace to incline your harts  
to these motions of peace, I Rest your ffaythfull frend,  
Spalding, January 31, 1642(3). Robert Ram."

JUSTIN SIMPSON, Stamford.

157.—**Fen Pumps, No. 2.**—(No. 143, Part VI.)—**Water Mills**, as these Wind Drainage Engines were usually called, were first erected in the Levels in the early part of the 18th century, or the latter part of the 17th. In the year 1678, the attention of the Bedford Level Corporation was directed to the artificial system of draining by mills. One of the first, of which I have seen any account, if not *the* first *wind* mill erected for drainage purposes in the *North Level* after the pattern of our Dutch neighbours, was one at Tydd St. Giles in 1693, at a cost of £450. It drained 2,400 acres in Tydd and Newton districts. The same account speaks of the "Leverington old mill." Later were erected the "Red Engine" mill near the Horse Shoe at Wisbech, "White Engine" mill on the Leverington Common, and the "Gorefield" mill. These a little more than half a century back (1835), were sold and converted into flour mills. The "Red Engine" mill was quite recently pulled down, and the materials offered for sale; vestiges of the water wheel may still be seen indicating its former use. "From 1726 we may date the plan of draining by water mills, a plan which was later brought into universal operation throughout the Bedford Level, and continued until the early part of the present century." The mill standing near Murrow station on what was formerly the old Wryde stream was built for drainage purposes. In the Wisbech, Tydd, and Newton districts there were formerly 18 water mills, and fourteen in the parish of Thorney. For the year ending Lady-day 1811, the rental for the parish of Thorney was £19,463 7s. Od., and the mill rate was £738 6s. 10d. The last wind mill used for drainage purposes in the North Level stands on the Northam farm (Eye), in a dismantled condition, having been superseded some 30 years ago by steam power, which is still deemed necessary for this low-lying district.

S. EGAR.

158.—**Hung in Chains in Guyhirn Wash.**—The following is a copy of a broadsheet published in 1795 :—

“The Dying Words and Confession of James Culley, Michael Quin, Thomas Quin, and Thomas Markin, *Who were executed at Wisbech on Saturday October the 24th*, for the Robbery and cruel Murder of *William Marriott, of Wisbech High Fen*, (1795).

“At the Assizes for the Isle of Ely, held at Wisbech on Thursday the 22d of October, JAMES CULLEY, MICHAEL QUIN, THOMAS QUIN, and THOMAS MARKIN, were indicted for the Robbery and Murder of *William Marriott*, of Wisbech High Fen, on Friday the 3d of July last, to which Indictment the Prisoners pleaded NOT GUILTY ;—whereupon they were put upon their Trial before HENRY GWILLAM, Esq. Chief Justice of the Isle of Ely.

“In the course of the trial it appeared, that on Friday the 3d of July, between the hours of nine and ten at night, the deceased had been out of the house to fetch some water, and on his return, after shutting the door, was immediately knocked down by one or other of the Prisoners, the candle put out, and was beat and mangled in a most shocking manner—after which they proceeded to the wife of the deceased and a young man a lodger, who they treated in the same cruel and inhuman way—after having dispatched them all three, as they they supposed, they went and broke open a box, out of which they took a watch, several silver spoons, some cash, and a coat ; most of which were found upon them when apprehended at Uttoxeter in Staffordshire.

“The whole of the evidence being gone through the Prisoners were called upon to know if they had anything to offer in their defence, who had nothing more to say than that it arose from a Quarrel.

“The evidence being so very clear, that after deliberating for a few minutes, the Jury pronounced the Prisoners GUILTY.

“Upon which the Chief Justice immediately passed Sentence of Death upon them in the following very pathetic and affecting manner :—

“*James Culley, Michael Quin, Thomas Quin, and Thomas*

*Markin*,—You have been tried by a Jury of your Country, and found Guilty of the horrid crime of MURDER—a crime at which human nature revolts, and which is punished with Death in most countries in the world—All that now remains of my melancholy duty, is to pass the dreadful sentence of the law upon you, which is,—‘That you James Culley, Michael Quin, Thos. Quin, and ‘Thos. Markin, be taken from hence to the place from whence ‘you came, and from thence on Saturday next to the place of ‘execution; and that you be there hanged by the neck till you ‘are dead, and that your bodies be delivered to the surgeons to ‘be dissected and anatomized, pursuant to the statute in that case ‘made and provided.—And may the Lord God Almighty have ‘Mercy on your Souls.’

“The four unfortunate men who were executed this day were born in Ireland, and had been several times employed as harvest men by persons in the Parish where this horrid crime was perpetrated.

“William Marriot, the deceased, at whose house the murderers lodged, was very much respected, being considered an honest industrious character, and who acted in the capacity of Shepherd to a respectable Farmer in that neighbourhood.

“This morning, about eight o’clock, they were conducted to the place of execution amidst an immense concourse of people, where they appeared to be very penitent, and after a short time spent in prayer they were launched into eternity.

“After hanging the usual time their Bodies were cut down—two of them were given to the Surgeons for dissection, and the other two to be hung in chains.”

After the murder had been committed, “Mr. S. Egar of Thorney Fen, and Mr. Letts of Guyhirne, followed, and found the four Irishmen in a house at Uttoxeter buying bread; with the aid of the constable they were immediately taken and conveyed to Wisbeach in a cart, Messrs. Egar and Letts producing their firearms as a caution to their being refractory proved a good expedient. They were deadly weapons, Mr. Egar’s a horse-pistol not in a fit state to be discharged, and Mr. Lett’s two small

pistols, one minus a lock, the other would not have discharged had it been required. Fortunately they were not then required, nor ever afterwards, altho' it was deemed proper for Messrs. E. and L. never to go from home for some time afterwards unprovided with a brace of pistols and in proper order. Even so recently as 1831 or 1832 some men in the parish of Thorney saluted Paddy with 'Go to Guyhirne! Go to Guyhirne! Pat.' 'Corder for ye! Corder for ye! returned the Irishman.' (Corder murdered Maria Martin, and was discovered some months afterwards by her mother dreaming she was buried in the red barn at Polestead.) There has not been a vestige of the Gibbet Post remaining this last year or two (1837)."

M. A. EGAR.

On a map of the Bedford Level, published by S. Wells about 1833, and in the old Ordnance Map (1834) the position of the Gibbet is shewn in the Wash about a mile west of the Railway Bridge, Guyhirn, on the North bank of Morton's Leam, (usually known as the Old River) and at equal distance between Guyhirn and the scene of the murder—on a farm then owned by Ralph Pierson, and now by J. W. Childers, Esq.

S. E.

**159.—Fenland Towns in 1772.**—*A Dictionary of the World*, published in 1772, gives the following particulars of Fenland towns:—

ELY is seated in the fenny part of the county of Cambridge on the river Ouse, which renders the air unhealthy. The buildings are but mean, and the inhabitants not numerous. It has a market on Saturdays, and is governed by a mayor. The fairs are on Holy Thursday, for horses; on the Thursday of the week St. Luke's day falls in, which is October 18th, for horses, cheese, and hops. It is, with the territory about it, which includes Wisbech, and most parts round it, a territory of itself; and has a judge who decides all causes, criminal and civil, within its limits, and is the see of a bishop. It has a free school for twenty-four boys, and two charity schools, the one for 40 boys and the other for 20 girls, which are maintained by subscription.

BOURN has a market on Saturday, and three fairs, on March



7th, May 6th, and Oct. 29th, for horses and horned cattle. It is seated near a spring called Burwell head, from which proceeds a river that runs through the town. It is a pretty large place, and has a good market for corn and provisions.

CROWLAND has a market on Saturdays. The town is seated very low, in deep fens, almost in the manner of Venice. It consists of three streets, separated from each other by water courses, and planted with willows, and the banks are secured by piles. They communicate with each other by a triangular bridge. The lowness of its situation admits of no carriages, and yet it is well inhabited on account of the great quantity of fish and wild ducks, taken in the adjacent pools and marshes.

HOLBEACH has a market on Thursdays, and two fairs, on May 17th and the 2nd Monday in Sept., for horses. It is seated in a flat among the dykes, and is but an indifferent town.

PETERBORO' has a market on Saturdays, and two fairs, on July 10th and Oct. 2nd, for horses, all kinds of stock and wrought timber. It is seated on the river Nene, which is navigable for barges, over which there is a bridge to pass into Huntingdonshire. St. Mary's chapel is a handsome large building, full of curious work, with a large choir. This place is of no great extent. It sends two members to parliament, and the mayor, recorder, and other officers are elected by the Dean and Chapter.

SPALDING has a market on Tuesdays, and five fairs, on April 27th for hemp and flax, on June 29th for horses and cattle, on Aug. 30th for horses, and on Sept. 25th and Dec. 17th for hemp and flax. It is an ancient and well built town, and is a mile in length upon the road; but is in a low situation, and enclosed with rivulets, drains, and a navigable river; which causes it to be a place of good trade, having several vessels and barges belonging to it.

LYNN has a market on Tuesdays and Saturdays, and a fair of six days, proclaimed on Feb. 14th. It is a handsome, large, well built corporation town, and sends two members to parliament. It is encompassed with a wall and a deep trench; and there are two small rivers that run through its streets, over which there are about

15 bridges. It is a trading place on account of its commodious harbour. It is governed by a mayor, a recorder, a high steward, twelve aldermen, and eighteen common councilmen. Formerly it was well fortified, but has now only a battery of 10 guns. It has two churches, a very large chapel, and two dissenting meeting houses. There are about two thousand houses, mostly pretty good ones, built with brick, the streets are narrow but well paved, and it has a very good market place, with an elegant cross; and there are here some remains of monasteries.

**RAMSEY** has a market on Wednesdays and a fair on July 22nd for small wares. It is seated in the fens, in a soil fit both for tillage and pasture, and is near the meers of Ramsey and Whittlesea; which with the rivers that plentifully water it, afford excellent fish; wild fowl are likewise in great plenty and are sold very cheap.

**ST. IVES** has a market on Mondays, and two fairs on Whitmonday and Oct. 10th, for cattle of all sorts and cheese. This town was large and flourishing before it was unfortunately destroyed by fire, since which it has never quite recovered its former beauty.

**BOSTON** has two markets, one on Wednesdays and the other on Saturdays, and also three fairs, that on May 6th is chiefly for sheep, that on Aug. 11th is called town fair, and that on Dec. 11th is for horses. It sends two members to parliament, and is a large, neat, and well inhabited town. It is governed by a mayor, who is clerk of the market, and admiral of the coast, a recorder and his deputy, twelve aldermen, eighteen common councilmen, a judge, and marshall of the admiralty, a town clerk, a coroner, and two serjeants at mace.

**WISBEACH** is merely said to be seated "in a fenny part of the county."

**160.—The Fens in 1745; No. 2.**—In August, 1745, Mr. Charles Labelye made another "particular view of the Fens," and he related what he found in a pamphlet addressed to the Duke of Bedford, at whose desire the view was taken. He says,

“ I found the North level of the Fens in general in a much better state and condition than much the greatest part of either the Middle or South level of the Fens. I observed the nature of the soil in the North level to be generally much of the same nature and quality as in a great part of the middle level, but rather better than in a great part of the South level. I found the natural declivity of the lands in the North level to be very inconsiderable though somewhat greater from Peterboro’ than in most parts of the other two levels. I observed that declivity to be in general from the South-west to the North-east, that is to say for the most part from Peterboro’ towards Clows cross. I found all the cuts and drains in the North level to be in a much better state and condition than most of those in the two other levels ; but far from being kept so deep and so clean from mud, reeds, and other weeds, as they ought to be ; in order to afford so quick and sufficient a discharge to the downfall waters as they might. I observed the banks of those cuts and drains to be in a much better state than most of those in the other two levels. The North Bank of Morton’s leam, the banks of Sluice drain, and the bank next to Welland washes appeared to me the best ; and yet those banks in many places are in want of repairs ; but the rest of the banks along the inland cuts and drains are far from being so high and so broad as they ought to be. I found several of those cuts much narrower, more crooked, and with more sharp angles and short turnings, than they might, and ought to be ; and I found them parted from one another by several (not only useless, but very prejudicial) dams, of which I shall take futher notice hereafter. I observed the natural fall of the waters, or the difference of levels, in all the cuts which convey the waters to Clows cross and from thence to the sea through Sluice drain and Gunthorpe’s sluices, to be hardly serviceable ; and at the time of my taking this view there was hardly any current towards the outfall. I found the outfall to the sea between Gunthorpe’s sluice and the wash way, greatly obstructed with many loose sands, frequently shifting by the various actions of the winds and tides ; which often occasions the channels of the outfalls, both of Wis-

beach and Gunthorpe's to shift their situations, they being sometimes very far asunder, as in the time of my view, and at other times they came near together and even uniting in one; all which alterations greatly increase the difficulty of keeping good outfalls. I observed by a method much less liable to errors than any spirit level or any other instrument that the fall or difference of levels between low water mark over against Gunthorpe's sluices, and the low water mark about 4 miles lower to it, over against the wash way, was very considerable, and near as much as it is in the mouths of much better rivers, it being certainly not less than 4 feet 8 inches, which is a fall of 14 inches per mile. But I found the threshold of Gunthorpe's sluice so low, that it is certainly not above 5 inches higher than the low water mark at the wash way. Moreover I observed at the time of my view, another obstacle to the procuring and preserving a good outfall to Gunthorpe's sluices, which is, that the sea has raised the lands or has thrown a kind of bar about a mile below Gunthorpe's sluices, so that from that place to the end of the last new cut, made for the letting of the scours from Gunthorpe, there is a fall, or difference of level *the wrong way* of about 12 or 15 inches. I found the lower reservoir far from being so large and capacious as it might be made without endangering its banks, and a great quantity of sand and silt left in the way of the waters, which might and ought to be removed next to the banks, either on the inside or outside of them. I observed that at the time of my view, there were but two feet of water on the threshold of Clows cross gates, at which time the surface of the waters in Peakirk Drain and the new South Eau were not more than about two feet lower than the surface of the lowest lands in the North level; and I was informed, that when these rivers are two feet and a half higher, the lowest lands begin to wet by the soke and downfall waters. Lastly I examined the two mills erected at the upper end of the second reservoir, which I found properly situated and of good workmanship, and certainly they must prove of great service in case of necessity; but the use of mills being attended with a constant expense they ought not to be used but when all other

means fail. From all these and many other observations, I am clearly of opinion, that the chief cause of the bad condition of the North level of the Fens after wet seasons is owing principally to the want of sufficient outfall for the downfall waters, there being no rivers that pass through this level, but what carry the downfall waters coming down from the uplands, which makes the case of the North level a very particular one; and, in that at least, very different from the rest of the fens. It also plainly appears to me that the several cuts and drains, passing through the North level, are not sufficient (in the condition they are at present) to carry off the waters which they might, and should carry off, after wet seasons."

The writer then proceeds at some length to detail the various works which he considers absolutely necessary to be done "with all convenient speed" to put the drains and cuts in the North Level in a proper condition. A copy of the pamphlet is preserved in Lord Esmé Gordon's local collection at Paxton Hall, and he has kindly allowed the above extract to be made.

**161.—The History of Holbeach.**—The Rev. Grant W. Macdonald, M.A., has just published a History of Holbeach, which is well deserving the attention, not only of persons interested in the local history of that town, but also of Fenland antiquarians generally. Mr. Macdonald has apparently scraped together every record and every vestige of information relating to Holbeach that could be found, and judging from the result of his labours he has left no source of information untouched. He has arranged his matter carefully in chapters, and has provided a copious index. In addition to the information concerning Holbeach, the book contains matters relating to various Fenland places, as Crowland, Thorney, Boston, Doddington, Gedney, Ely, Fleet, Whaplode, Spilsby, Spalding, Skerbeck, Peterboro', Moulton, Long Sutton, Weston, Little Weldon, Sutton Bridge, as well as places in the surrounding counties not included in the Fenland district. In consequence of the number of family names mentioned, the book is invaluable to genealogists. Although the local matter has been

so well done, there will no doubt be a difference of opinion as to some of the author's remarks on general history, but these form a very inconsiderable portion of the work. The book is nicely printed and bound by Mr. Foster, of King's Lynn, and is embellished with two or three suitable engravings. We are pleased to notice that Mr. Macdonald has been able to use, in two or three cases, matters that have been communicated to the pages of *Fenland Notes and Queries*.

**162.—The Vicars of St. John the Baptist, Peterborough, from the Year 1209.**—The first Vicar who was instituted in perpetuam Vicariam Ecclesiæ Sti Johannis Baptistæ de Burgo ad præsentationem Abbatis et Conventus de burgo beati Petri was William de Waterford. He was instituted by Hugo Wells, *alias* Wallis, then Bishop of Lincoln, A.D. 1209, as appears from the Registry of Lincoln. He was succeeded by :—

Henry de Wermingham ...1264	‡John Wyld.....1468
Richard de Braibroc .....1269	‡Richard Chapman .....1469
Richard de Walmesford ...1290	‡John Carter .....1469
Walter de Horsham.....1330	Sr. John Foreman .....1476
Johannis Trygg	(Rev. W. D. Sweeting gives date as 1469.)
Thomas Daumo .....1353	John Welles.....1479
Roger Fraunceys.....1359	Jonn Gryndell.....1497
Stephen Kynesman .....1372	John Affen .....1499
Adam Warrock .....1373	William Tempest.....1504
Thomas Cupper	Thomas Wilkinson .....1510
*John Anketill .....1398	David Smyth .....1517
John Boton	‡Radulphus <i>Bohun</i> , S.P.T.1522
D <sup>mo</sup> Johannis Botylbrygg 1432	(Rev. W. D. Sweeting gives name as Bolham.)
‡William Brewster.....1433	‡*Richard Key, M.A. ....1542
Magisto Johannis Hare ...1457	*Thomas <i>Wilkinson</i> .....1555
(Rev. W. D. Sweeting in Parish Churches gives date as 1439.)	(Rev. W. D. Sweeting gives name as Williamson.)
Robert Bayston, L.L.B ...1467	
‡Edward Wager, M.A., 1559 to April, 1604.	

(The Rev. W. D. Sweeting gives date of induction as 1592, but the Rev. Edward Wager was Vicar of St. John's Church in 1587, as he makes an entry in the Registry of the burial of Mary Queen of Scots.)

From 1604 to 1618 no trace of a Vicar is found, but

\*Robert Thirlby, M.A., was inducted Feb. 19th, 1618, and died Dec. 29th, 1628; he was also Master of the King's School.

\*Paul Pank was inducted Jan. 1st, 1628, and died Nov. 4th, 1658, but his successor could not obtain possession until 1660. Mr. Willson took charge of the Church during part of the Commonwealth period, but was ejected at the Restoration. Calamy speaks of him as "a man of excellent ministerial skill and ability; of signal Piety and Diligence in his work, and extraordinary success, doing good to multitudes."

‡\*Simon Gunton, M.A., the historian of Peterborough Cathedral, was inducted Oct. 1st, 1660; he was also Prebendary of the Cathedral. He resigned about Feb., 1666; after which the Church was supplied for about a year and a half by Humphrey Austin, who in the Register book calls himself Deputy Vicar. He officiated till Aug. 1st, 1667, probably upon account of the Plague which the year before had raged in Peterborough, and was not entirely free till 1667.

\*George Gascoigne was inducted Aug. 1st, 1667, and died Sept. 14th, 1680.

‡Jos. Johnston, B.D., was inducted Oct., 1680, and resigned in 1685.

David Waldron, M.A., was inducted Sept. 20th, 1685, and died 1687.

‡John Gilbert, M.A., was inducted March, 1687, and resigned in 1698.

Isaac Gregory, M.A., was inducted Oct. 9th, 1698, and died Aug. 31st., 1707.

\*William Waring, M.A., was inducted Feb. 20th, 1707-8; he was also Master of the King's School, and Precentor of the Cathedral. He died Aug. 13th, 1726.

\*Thomas Marshall, M.A., inducted Aug. 17th, 1726, and died Sept. 29th, 1748.

John Fisher, M.A., inducted Jan. 14th, 1748.

\*John Image, M.A., was inducted Dec. 15th, 1766; was also Precentor of the Cathedral, and died Oct. 5th, 1786.

\*John Weddred, inducted 1786, and died 1806.

‡Joseph Stephen Pratt, L.L.B., inducted 1806; was also Prebendary of Peterborough. He resigned the living in 1833.

‡John James, M.A., was inducted 1833; was also a Prebendary of Peterborough. He resigned the living in 1850.

‡Edmund Davys, M.A., was inducted 1850, and resigned 1865.

‡William Hill was inducted 1865; was also Honorary Canon of Peterborough. He resigned 1875.

Henry Samuel Syers, M.A., B.C.L., the present Vicar, was inducted 1875, and is an Honorary Canon of Peterborough.

\* Was buried at Peterborough. † Resigned the Living.

CHARLES DACK.

163.—**A Whittlesey Deed of Feoffment.**—The following is a copy—placed at our disposal by the Peterboro' Natural History and Archæological Society—of a deed of feoffment executed at Whittlesey on Feb. 20th, in 1682 :—

**This Indenture** Tripartite made the Twentieth day of February in the Five and Thirtieth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord Charles the Second by the grace of God of England Scotland France and Ireland King Defender of the Faith Anno Dni 1682 ~~Between~~ Robt Hart of Witlesey within the Isle of Ely in the County of Cambridge Husbandman And Henry Hemont of Witlesey aforesayd in the Isle and County aforesayd husbandman and Alice his wife (the Feoffoure) of the first part And John Ground of Witlesey aforesayd in the Isle and County aforesayd husbandman (the Feoffee) of the second part And Robt Beale of Witlesey aforesayd in the Isle and County aforesayd gent (the Attourney) of the third part ~~Witnesseth~~ That the sayd Robt Hart and the sayd Henry Hemont and Alice his wife for and in consideration of Six and Forty pounds and Ten shillings of lawfull English money to them before the sealing hereof by the said John Ground well and truly contented and payd Whereof and wherewith they acknowledge themselves fully satisfied And thereof doe acquitt and discharge the said John Ground his heyres Executrs



Administratrs and Assignes by theise presents **That** granted bargained sold enfeoffed and confirmed And by theise presents doe grant bargain sell enfeoffe and confirme unto the sayd John Ground **All those** Ten acres by estimation of pasture or marish ground lying in St Andrews Sixth Cottage Lott in Bassenhallmore in Witlesey aforesayd next the ground sometimes of John Frear afterwards of Willm Frear on the west and the ground heretofore of John Laxon now Ralph Laxon on the east and abutting upon Mortons Leame south and upon a Drove way north with their appurtenances **And** all the estate right title interest reversion remainder claym and demand whatsoever which they the sayd Robt Hart and the sayd Henry Hemont and Alice his wife or either of them or any of them have or hath or ought to have of into or out of the sayd Ten acres of ground and every or any part thereof **Together** with all Deeds writings evidences and myniments touching or concerning the same **To have and to hold** all and every the above mentioned to be granted to Ten acres of ground and premises unto the sayd John Ground his heyres and Assignes to the onely use and behoof of the sayd John Ground his heyres and Assignes for ever **And the said** Robt Hart and the sayd Henry Hemont for them their heyres Executrs and Administratrs doe covenant and grant to and with the sayd John Ground his heyres Executrs Administratrs and Assignes by theise presents in manner and forme following That is to say **That** he the sayd John Ground his heyres and Assignes (under the chiefe rente and services herafter to grow due to the cheife Lord or Lords of the Fee or Fees for or out of the abovementioned to be granted Ten acres of ground and premises) shall or lawfully may from time to time and at all times for ever herafter peaceably and quietly have hold possess and enjoy to his and their owne use and behoof the same abovementioned to be granted Ten acres of ground and premises without any the lawfull lett suit trouble eviction interruption or disturbance whatsoever of or by the sayd Robt Hart and Alice his now wife and the sayd Henry Hemont and Alice his wife or either or any of them or their or either or any of their heyres or Assignes or of or by any other person or persons

whatsoever lawfully clayming or to claym by the sayd Robt Hart and Alice his wife and the said Henry Hemont and Alice his wife or either or any of them or by their or either or any of their act assent meanes title or procurement And that freely acquitted and discharged aswell of and from the Dower or other interest of the sayd Alice now wife of the sayd Robt Hart and of the sayd Alice now wife of the sayd Henry Hemont and of either of them as also of and from all other estates titles troubles charges and incumbrances whatsoever Except onely the cheife rents and services aforesayd And that he the sayd Robt Hart and the sayd Alice his wife and the heyres of the said Robt And the sayd Henry Hemont and Alice his wife and the heyres of the same Alice shall and will at all every or any time or times herafter upon the request and at the costs and charges in the law (and of travell also in case such travell shall Three miles) of the sayd John Ground his heyres or Assignes make doe and execute or cause to be made done and executed all and every such further acts things and devises in the law whatsoever for the further better and more perfect assurance sure making and conveying of all and singular the abovementioned to be granted Ten acres of ground and premises unto the sayd John Ground his heyres and Assignes To his and their own use and behoof for ever in such sort as by him the sayd John Ground his heyres or Assignes or by his or their or any of their Counsell learned in the law shall be reasonably devised or advised and required And also That (for further assurance of the abovementioned to be granted Ten acres of ground and premises to be made as aforesayd) They the sayd Robt Hart and Alice his wife and the sayd Henry Hemont and Alice his wife shall and will before the end of Easter Terme now next coming upon the request and at the costs and charges in the law (and of travell also in case such travell shall exceed Three miles) of the sayd John Ground his heyres and Assignes knowledge and levy unto the sayd John Ground and his heyres One Fine sur cognisance de droit come ceo &c With proclamations thereupon to be had and made according to the usual course of Fines for assurance of lands used Of and concerning the abovementioned to be granted Ten acres of ground

and premises By the name of Ten acres of fresh marsh with the appurtenances in Witlesey in the County of Cambridge Or by any other name or names quantitie quality or description And with usual changes of Release and Warrantie of or by the sayd Robt Hart and Alice his wife and the heyres of the said Robt and of or by the sayd Henry Hemont and Alice his wife and the heyres of the same Alice against them and every of them in the sayd Fine to be conteyned ~~Which~~ Fine so to be had and levyed as aforesd or otherwise And all and every other Fines Feoffments and assurances had or to be had levyed or executed by or between the sayd parties to these presents either by themselves alone or joyntly with any other person or persons of the sd Ten acres of ground and premises or any part therof either alone or together with other lands shall be and in use And shall be adjudged deemed and taken to be and in use to and for the onely use and behoof of the sayd John Ground his heyres and Assignes for ever And to or for none other use intent or purpose whatsoever ~~And further~~ To the end and intent the estate in and by these presents intended to be granted may so farre as it can forthwith (before the sd Fine can be had & levyed as aforesd) be settled and vested according to the true intent & meaning of these presents They the sayd Robt Hart and Henry Hemont and Alice his wife Have made constituted and ordayned And by these presents doe make constitute and ordayn the sayd Robt Beale their either & every of their true and lawfull Attourney for them either and every of them and in their either and every of their name and stead into all and singular the beforementioned to be granted Ten acres of ground and premises and into every or any part therof in the name of the whole to enter And peaceable possession and seisin therof or of any part therof in the name of the whole to take And after peaceable possession and seisin had and take as aforesayd To give and deliver peaceable possession and seisin therof or of any part therof in the name of the whole unto the sayd John Ground according to the true intent and meaning of these presents Hereby ratifieing allowing and confirming all and whatsoever the said Attourney shall doe or cause to be done in or concerning the premises as fully to all intents and

purposes as if they themselves either or any of them had done the same & *in witness* wherof the parties abovesayd to theise present Indentures have interchangeably sett their hands and seales the day and year first above written.

Robt + Hart  
his marke

Henry +++ Hemont  
his marke

Alice + Hemont  
her marke

**164.—A Church Service interrupted at Thorney.**—Dr. Smiles, in his work on “Engineers,” says: “When the new outfall was opened, in a few hours the lowering of the water was felt throughout the whole of the Fen Level. . . . The sensation created was such that at Thorney, near Peterborough, some 15 miles from the sea, the intelligence penetrated even to the congregation at church—for it was Sunday morning—that the waters were running, when immediately the whole flocked out, parson included, to see the great sight.”

**165.—Water Parties on Whittlesea Mere.**—The following is a newspaper cutting dated the 9th of June, 1840.—“Whittlesea Mere has of late years, on the day following the anniversary of Yaxley club feast, exhibited a scene of festivity, cheerfulness and joy. It may probably be the recollection of some of our readers that we last year gave an account of the gala day, which as is usual took place on the second Tuesday in June. The vessels then mentioned belonging to Mr. Buckle, Mr. Sherrard, Mr. Richardson, &c., were this year fitted up in admirable style, and some splendid sailing was anticipated. The morning was remarkably fine, and the placid mere was glided over by upwards of 80 pleasure boats of various sizes and descriptions, containing by calculation 1000 persons, many of whom were fashionable and well dressed ladies; they assembled at the rallying point, on the south side of the mere, about the time Sol passed the meridian, when the scene was changed to one of disappointment and perplexity, about one o'clock, by a thunder storm, attended by a heavy downfall of rain, which lasted four hours in succession. The ladies' dresses were literally drenched, the boats were nearly half filled with water, and the only alternative was to re-cross the mere from the point at which they had assembled.”

**166.—History of Soham, (by the Rev. J. R. Olorenshaw).—**

Near the step of the chancel to the south, covered by a pew, lies an exceedingly old grey marble with a French inscription round the verge of it in old characters, but so covered by the pew that I could only read a word or two of it. By some oversight this was placed immediately in front of the fire-place in the clergy vestry in 1880, and is in danger of being altogether spoilt. In the same chapel as that in which Cole saw the stone coffin, he says there were on the floor several neat tiles with figures, and among them some with the arms of Lisle on them, viz., two chevrons and a fesse between them. A handsome brass eagle stands in this chapel also, but the tiles and eagle have disappeared. The east window has a few panes of stained glass with birds and flowers, together with some fragments, which, with a few in the two small windows of the chancel, are all that remains of the old glass.

The westernmost chapel, filling in the space between the east chapel and the north transept, with an arch into it as well as into the chancel, is of late Perpendicular date of the 15th century. This is used as a choir vestry and for the organ, the entrance into the clergy vestry having been made in 1880. On the east wall of this chapel is the oldest monument in the church. It bears the following inscription: "The monumente of Edward Bernes Esquier and Dorothe his wife, one of the daughters of Robert Drurye of Hawsted in the Countie of Suffolke, Esquier, who dyd beare unto hir said husbände, nyne sonnes and six daughters, and dyed in the 42nd yeare of her age, upon the 18 day of february, 1598. Ano regni Regine Elizabethæ 41."

At the west end of this chapel there is a very perfect and elaborately worked Parclose screen, which was carefully restored in 1880. Five coats of arms were to be seen on it in Cole's time, but only faint traces of one or two now remain. There was a small screen under the arch to the chancel, but whether of wood or stone, Cole does not say.

The transepts are about 18ft. 6in. long, and 15ft. 6in. wide, of the same date as the nave, buttressed and finished with octagon pinnacles at the four angles. Arches from the transepts commu-

nicate with the aisles. In the south transept there is a good Early English double piscina, with an inscription (now almost entirely obliterated), in gold letters on a black ground. Cole gives the inscription as follows: "In memorie of Mrs. Mary Dowman, daughter and heire of Sir Roger Thornton Knt., wife to Mildmay Dowman esq., by whom she had issue two sons, Isaac and William, and three daughters, Anne, Mary, and Lydia. She died February ye . . . in ye 29 (?) year of her age and lyeth interred in this isle 1679 (?)" This transept has a large three-light Decorated window in its east wall. Here is a small brass plate bearing the following inscription: "Here under lieth the bodie of John Thornton gent who married Ann the eldest daughter of Robt drurie esquier, and by her had issue Roger, which sayd John died the xiii day of September An. 1598." This was in Cole's time in the south transept, with the head close to the great pillar on the north-west: it is now with the head against the east wall.

Cole makes the following remarks upon the altar tomb under the north transept window: "By the number of leopards' faces about it I should suspect it might belong to one of the De la Poles', if ever they had any possessions in this parish, as they had about Babraham and Sarston; in the window of the north chapel by it is also a leopard's face Or. But this is mere conjecture. On one part of the arch is neatly carved in stone a sort of dragon with a boar's head and opposite to it a rose." It is probably of the 15th century. Cole says that he was informed by Mr. Cockayne that the large marble slab to the memory of Thomas Docwra and his wife was laid down by Mrs. Docwra long before her death, so that the dates were neglected, but that he would get them added the first opportunity. This however, has never been done.

The transepts, it has been ascertained, had north and south early English triplets, but these have given way to windows of much later and Decorated date.

There is a small brass at the foot of the easternmost pillar on the south side of the nave, bearing the inscription, "Here lyeth ye body of Olliver Robins who dyed ye 12 daye of Avgvst 1608

and had to wife Katherin Daugh : of Peter Salisbry." This with the one already mentioned, are the only old brasses of any kind to be found in the church.

The nave aisles have five windows of three lights on each side, mostly of the Perpendicular period, but some are Decorated. All vestiges of the early and original windows have disappeared.

Cole says that when he visited the church there was over the great north door on the wall a large figure of S. Christopher carrying our Saviour over a river. This has been white-washed over, but nevertheless continues very fresh and perfect. There is no trace of it to be met with now (1887).

The new pulpit, the bottom part of which is of stone, stands against the first south pillar ; and the neat font railed all round and adorned with a light canopy, stands near the belfry door on the same side. In the north aisle runs all along, from one end to the other, a gallery.

About the end of the 15th century it would appear that the church was lengthened by one arch to the west, making the total length from east to west 130 ft. including the chancel, central tower, and nave. The great west tower, 25 ft. square and 100 ft. high, or 110ft. inclusive of the pinnacles, with its upper part highly enriched and ornamented with tessellated work composed of flints, was also of this period, as well as the clerestory, the walls of which are crenulated and 11 feet higher than the original walls. This clerestory has five three-light Perpendicular windows on each side, and a flat pitched roof extending over the central tower in a continuous line, thereby obliterating all external traces of this tower. There is a lofty arch and fine four-light window in the west tower, and a good peal of ten bells. There are 122 steps to the tower, which Cole describes as follows : "The tower of the church at the top is adorned with eight large pinnacles, and on the south side by a little turret of lead for the bell of the clock. All round the upper part of the tower, just under the pinnacles, there are in black flint, set into the stones, the figures of Crowns

for Ely and Saltires, which are the arms of Bishop Barnet, Bishop of Ely, 1366—74.”

The porches are large. The south one is of the 14th century, and was at one time groined with stone. What is said to have been the keystone of the roof is now inserted in the wall near the pulpit. Over the entrance of this porch is a large sun-dial, with the motto: “Ab hoc memento pendant æterna.” The north porch is of the 15th century, and probably coeval with the tower and other Perpendicular work. It has a stoup at the west side of the door. There is an Ambry in the south aisle and also in the Clergy Vestry; and a string course in the Chancel, transepts, and nave. The Royal Arms, now at the west end of the north aisle, are of the reign of Queen Anne.

The remains of ancient woodwork are the roofs of the nave and aisles. The roof of the south aisle has the date 1725. A few more or less mutilated benches remain in the north side of the nave and in the south aisle.

The repairs, alterations, and restorations effected in 1880, comprised the complete repair of all the doors, windows, and other stonework both internal and external. New roofs were put to the north and south transepts, as well as to the two chapels, and a new floor to the tower. The re-plastering of the walls, the removal of all the galleries which surrounded and encumbered the Church, the removal of the font, the repairing and re-tiling of the floor, the re-glazing of all the windows, and the warming of the Church, were also done. The whole was under the direction of Mr. J. Piers St. Aubyn. Some portions of the work were carried out by Mr. Tooley of Bury S. Edmunds, and it was completed by Messrs. Tebbitt of Soham, at a total cost of about £3,000, which was raised mainly by subscriptions. Mr. Tebbitt, senior, died during the progress of the work, and it was then finished by his son. The Church is seated for about 575 persons. According to a return made in 1883-4, the Church formerly accommodated from 1,200 to 1,500, but this seems doubtful; at least 200 seats were, however, lost by the restoration in 1880, chiefly through the removal of the galleries.



The following, from *The Ecclesiologist*, is interesting as giving an antiquarian's opinion of the restoration effected about forty years ago: Saint — \*Soham.—This fine church was partly restored in its chancel some three years since (1849). Some fine old stalls were ejected, which now lie in the north aisle, and some cumbersome and expensive new stalls put in. These new stalls are actually returned against a new open rood screen of very mean design and without doors. They have subsellae, and the desks in front are so absurdly high, that they can only be used standing. This is an unaccountable but probably well meant vagary; but the new stalls have, we imagine, never been put to any use. In the north chancel aisle (*sic*) there remains the figure of a bishop of poor design in distemper. When we saw this church the nave was undergoing so-called restoration. It was well meant but nothing could possibly be worse. The tower had been lathed and plastered, some fine wide apart old oak benches brought closer together to increase the accommodation; some new uniform deal pews erected for the dissentient parishioners, and scraping and cleaning going on to the stone work. But we shall scarcely be believed when we say that we found the capitals of the lantern arches, of noble transitional foliage, actually being *re-cut* by an ignorant mason with the most ruthless of chisels, merely because any other process of removing paint and whitewash was found tedious. Defend us from such cruel "restoration!"

Memoranda from Cole's M.SS. "Mr. Cockayne, who was an odd-looking man, short, squat, a nose like a hawk's beak, and small eye, and withal very penurious, died on Saturday, August 1st, 1778, at Soham, where he had built a small house. He was very rich Sir John Cotton told me. Ten years ago he was worth about £40,000. An attorney, I think, left him near half of it, and he had £6,000 or £7,000 with his wife, a sister of Dr. Ewin, of Cambridge. He had got into a law-suit since he purchased an estate at Swavesey, some 4 or 5 years ago, with a litigious and shrewd fellow Berry (?) Dodson, who has been long used to tyrannize over

\* The omission of the name seems to point to some uncertainty as to the patron saint, and is the only clue met with as to the change of name.

the parish, but whose age and declining health would probably soon have put an end to the contest between them, had not Mr. Cockayne's sudden death intervened, for he was taken ill but the Monday before. Dr. Ewin told me this summer that his brother Cockayne made himself so uneasy about his son, a youth of 19, the only child, that he was afraid it would endanger his health. Probably that and the law-suit, (for he was of a vehement law spirit also), might have hastened his end. He was afraid to put his son either to College or to the Inns of Court for fear of his morals, and was equally uneasy in regard to his situation at home, where was in the town an attorney's clerk, of whom Mr. Cockayne was much alarmed, as his son had got acquainted with him, and I suppose whose morals he was afraid of. The son had the appearance of an idiot, and if he turns out well I shall wonder."

"There is a small black marble on the step of the old altar, in the westernmost chapel, to the memory of Dorothy Hamond."

"In this place lives Theodore Smith, Esq., Gentleman; Usher to H.R.H. Frederick Prince of Wales and Justice of the Peace for the County.

"In 1658, seven or eight urns were found by Sir Jonas Moore, in digging in a piece of ground belonging to Mr. Chicheley, in this parish.\*

"Soham.—1780: Church dedicated to S. Andrew—6 bells." This information was obtained by Cole from the Testamentary Registers.

Another link connecting Soham with events of the past may be found in the fact that certain remains have been discovered at various times in the present Cemetery. It is rather curious that human bones interred about eight or nine hundred years ago should have been met with in this particular part of the parish. It may perhaps be accounted for by the Cemetery being situated on rising ground and near the main road, and the bones may be those of soldiers who fell in one of the numerous fights

\* An urn was found in recent years in a fairly good state of preservation, containing part of a human skull, &c. It was in the possession of Mr. Wilton, boot-maker, Church-gate Street, in 1889.

VMPHRIDVS TYNDALL NOBILI.

NORFOLCIENSIVM TYNDALLORVM FAMILIA ORIVIVS DECANVS QVARTVS ISTVS ECCLIESIE ORBIT XII.

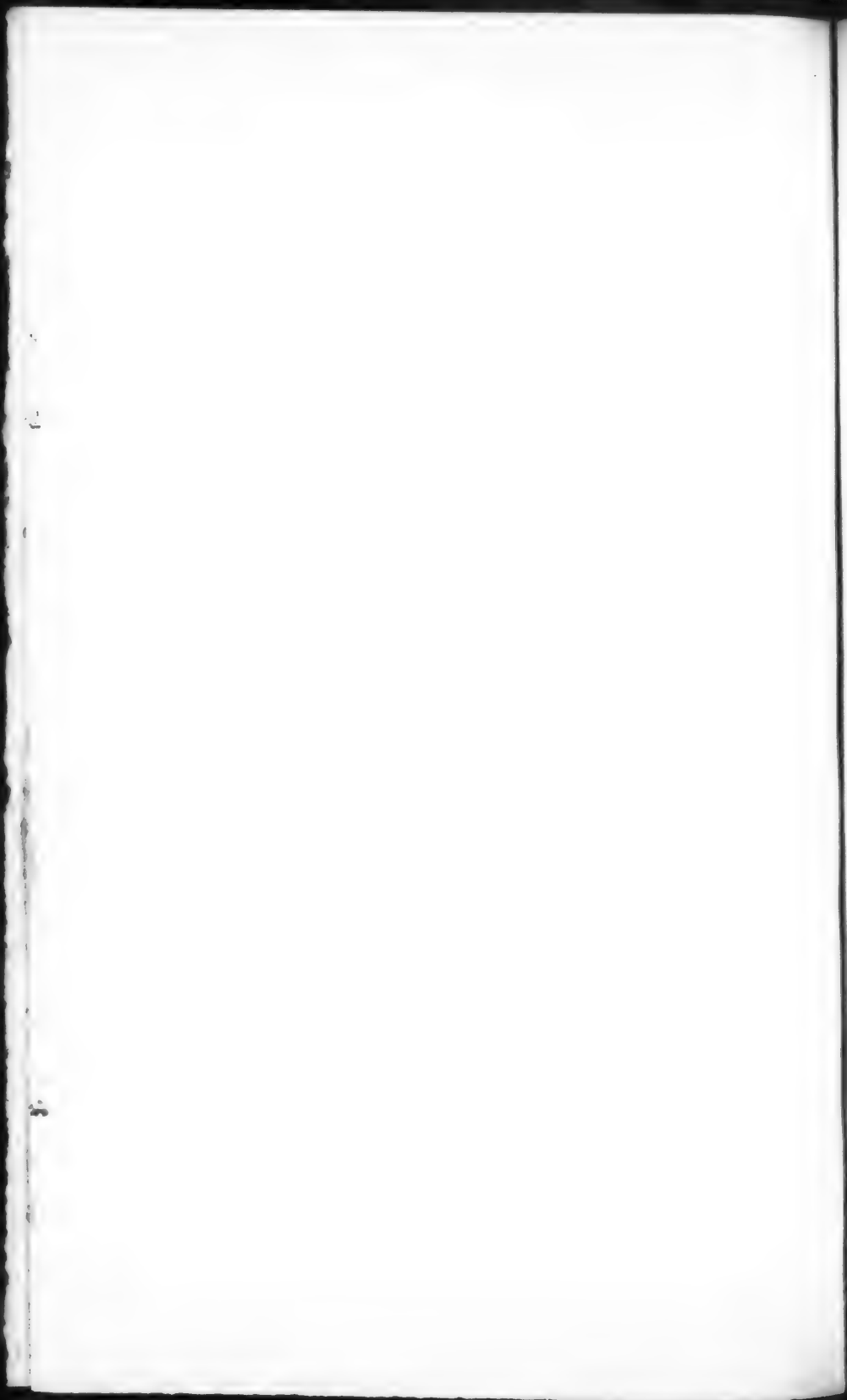
MILLESSIMO SEXCENTESIMO DECIMO QVARTO ANNO AETATIS SVAE SIXAGESIMO QVINTO.



VEQVIVS DNDVS VEQVIVS

THE BODY OF THE WORTHY & REVEREND PRELATE  
VMPHRYNDALL DOCTOR OF DIVINITY, THE FOUNDER  
OF THIS CHURCH AND MASTER OF QUEENES COLLEGE IN  
CAMBRIDGE BOTH WERE GREAT FELLOWS OF OUR SAVIOUR  
In profane & gossamerous good as home not in hark,  
Covise with corrupcions, Nolle was the earth.  
The poor & church & colledge says here byes  
A forme, Allasse, Amaster was, good was

DIE MENSIS OCTOB. ANO SALTYS



which took place in earlier days. In the years 1865-7 Mr. R. Elsdon discovered some Anglo-Saxon beads, &c., when digging in the upper part of the Cemetery. The articles met with included 6 bronze brooches, 1 bronze "girgle-hanger" (as engraving below,)



1 rock crystal bead, and 10 glass beads as well as a few fragments too small to be recognised. These were exhibited at the Society of Antiquaries, London, by the Rev. C. J. Armistead, F.S.A., then Curate of Soham, and were considered of sufficient importance to be noted in the Society's Journal. The chief object of interest, the "girgle-hanger" was engraved, and we are indebted to the Council of this Society for the loan of the block from which our engraving is produced. The whole of the articles were forwarded to the British Museum, and are now exhibited there along with other remains of a similar character. The brooches, &c. found in Lincolnshire and elsewhere, and which are to be seen in the Museum in the same case, are of a more valuable kind, several of them being larger and better made, whilst some of them are studded with precious stones. The "girgle-hanger" found here is a fairly perfect specimen of the

kind, but antiquaries are at a loss to know the precise purpose for which these articles were used, probably as ornaments or perhaps as keys. The piece of wire at the top has no connection with the "hanger." It will be noticed that that part of it to the left of the engraving has been broken in the centre. The engraving is about two-thirds of the actual size.

It has not been ascertained when the Vicarage was created and endowed, certainly however before the year 1291, when the taxation of Pope Nicholas the fourth was made, for in that record the Rectory and Vicarage are thus respectively estimated—Diocese of Norwich, Deanery of Fordham, Saham £40, Vicarage thereof £16 13s. 4d. The former being the estimated value of the Rectory, then appropriated to the Priory of Pyne, in Normandy, the latter of the Vicarage.

It is probably the great antiquity of this Vicarage that is the cause of the original dotation or endowment of it being no longer discoverable, be that as it may it cannot be found in the Augmentation Office nor in the Episcopal Registry, which is the genuine and legitimate repository for such documents.

There is a record founded upon this taxation and bearing date 14 Edward III, (A.D. 1341) which, if it did not mix the Rectorial and the Vicarial Tithes together, would probably be an instrument of great value and importance. It is a return of the value of the Nona or ninth part of the Corn, Fleeces, and Lambs in each parish of the county, and the return for Soham is more ample than might be expected. It states that the taxation of the Church with the Vicarage is £56 13s. 4d., but that the same ninth does not amount to the taxation by £29 19s. 8d., because the said taxation issues from the glebe and other things, together with various tithes which it enumerates, and which amount to £29 19s. 8d.

In 26 Henry VIII., the annual value of the Vicarage of Soham was £32 16s. 4½d.

There was a suit in the Exchequer in 1692 about certain tithes of the Vicarage of Soham, in which the Vicarial Endowment was not produced, it was declared that Soham Marsh paid

13/4 to the impropiator in lieu of all tithes great and small.

The living of Soham was occupied by Ridley, from 1547 to 1552. The advowson was presented to Pembroke College by Henry VI. 1451, but some difficulties arose as to the legality of the conveyance, and the Bishop of Norwich claimed the advowson.

The following is a copy of a document in the possession of Pembroke College, Cambridge, referring to this dispute :—" Be it knowen to all men, Andrew Bugge, of Sohm, in the counte of Cambrygge, Thomas Bestney, Edward Petchey, Thos. Calyngnam, William Petche the elder, Thos. Peche of the Thornfyeld, Edmond Wake, Thos. Thornton of the Brok-street, (and others whose names are illegible) : We the names above wreten cestifi and will depose upon a bok that all the Vicarres of the paryshe of Sohm, have taken the gyfte of all the ryghte and due tytell containing (?) the gyfte of the advowson of the said Vicarage, of Pembrok Hall, in Cambrygge, from the gyfte of the Parsonage there by grant of King Henry VI. when the said Parsonage and Vicarage was fyrst given unto them. Nor never we know nor herd that any other man pretended any tytell conveying (?) to the said gyfte of the sayd Vicarage unto this tyme, unto the witness of the whyche thynge we the persons above named have sette our sealles, and for the \* \* \* \* witnesseth the same wryten at Sohm, the 4th day of June, the 18th year of King Henry VII. (1502)."

In 1502 the Master and Fellows presented Oliver Coren Coryne or Curwen, a Fellow of Pembroke College.

In January, 1528, Richard Gauston, not a Fellow, was presented, and it does not appear by whom : exchanging with Coren, the living of Stoke Charity. On Nov. 4, 1541, the college appointed trustees to make the next presentation in their behalf. But in 1542, the Bishop of Norwich (in whose Diocese Soham was) interfered, and granted the next presentation to Myles Spencer, LL.D. In 1547 the living fell vacant, and the presentation was claimed by Pembroke College, for Ridley, then Master, and by the Bishop of Norwich, for Dr. Spenser. Ridley

appeared forthwith as plaintiff *v.* the Bishop of Norwich and Spenser, in the Court of King's Bench, in a case of "Quare impedit," and in Easter Term, I. Edward VI., judgment was given in Ridley's favour. He was himself at once presented by the trustees before alluded to, and instituted on the 17th May, 1547.

## LIST OF THE VICARS OF SOHAM,

From 1102, to the present time. For the names previous to the Reformation, we are indebted to the Rev. Dr. Jessop, the others have been obtained from the Parish Registers and other sources.

Soham-Mere-in Can : Cantabr. ded. S. Andreae.

1102—Ranulph.

1250—(*circ*) Nicholaus.

1308—13 Kal. Oct. Adam de Milhaem (Vicar) on the nomination of the Bishop and presentation of the Abbots of Pyne and the Prior of Rewley.

1321—Kal. Jan. John de Ely, (Vicar), on the nomination of the Bishop and presentation of—Abbot of Rewley, who has the right of patronage by virtue of the grant of the Abbot of Pyne.

1325—10 Kal. Mar. Joh: de Burghard, ditto ditto.

1330—Kal. Novemb. Joh: de Waunford, exchanging with Weting All Saints.

1339—16 Febr. Joh: de Scrubby, on the nomination and presentation of the above.

1349—26 July. Will. de Leverington, ditto.

1351—21 Febr. Thos: Bulmere, (exchanging with Terlyng, London.)

1361—6 Jan. Will: de Wymondham, on the nomination and presentation of the above.

1384—28 Nov. Thos: fitz Alam Taylor, on the nomination of the King, owing to the vacancy in the Bishopric; and presentation of the Abbot and Convent of Rewley.

1415—14 Sep. Mr. Joh: Hody, on the nomination of the Bishop of Norwich, and presentation of the above-mentioned.

—Joh:—Prate (exchanging with the church of S. Pancras, London.)

1417—29 March. Joh: Love (exchanging with Sywell, Linc.)

1420—6 Decr. Joh: Clench, on the nomination and presentation of the above.



- 1427—8 April. Will : Bogy, ditto.
- 1442—August. Henr Faulkus ,,
- 1445—15 Sept. Thos : Hawnby, (exchanging with Staunton.)
- 1450—27 March. Joh : Sley (exchanging with Clopton.)
- 1470—23 October. Gawen Blinkinsop, on the nomination of the Bishop of Norwich and presentation of the Master and Fellows of Pembroke Hall. He was ordained Deacon by the Bishop of Ely, 1458, made Fellow of Pembroke 1467, and presented to the Vicarage of Soham in 1470, exchanging this for Gavely, to which he was presented by the Abbot and Convent of Ramsey, on December 1st, 1473, being then B.D. He was afterwards made D.D., and gave books to the Library and somewhat to the College Chapel.
- 1473—November. Thos : Tewth, on the nomination and presentation of the Master and Fellows of Pembroke Hall.
- 1478—14 Feb. Richard Sockburn, or Stockburn, of York diocese, Bachelor of civil law, 1466. LL.B. 1470; M.A. 1472. He was presented by the Chapter of Ely to the Church of St. Mary's de Beringham, in Norwich diocese in 1487, being Doctor of Laws or decretalls. Afterwards presented to Sudburn with the Chapel of Orford in Suffolk. He was a benefactor to his college and died in 1502. In his will he appointed the Fellows of Pembroke to pray for him one year.
- 1503 (or 2)—14 Nov. Oliver Coren, or Curwen. He was chosen Fellow with eight others on the 4th of September, 1490. D.D. 1505. He died in 1542.
- 1547—17 May. Nicholas Ridley S. T. P. on the presentation of Rich : Wylks, &c.
- 1577?—18 Oct. Humphrey Tindall B.A. Chosen Fellow 24 November 1567; Master of Queen's College 1579; D.D. and Vice Chancellor 1585; Dean of Ely 1591 to 1614. He was descended of a very ancient and noble family which had its seat at Redenhall in Norfolk, and was son of Sir Thomas Tyndall, Knight, of Hockwold, Norfolk. He was born in Norfolk in 1549, died October 12, 1614, and was buried in Ely Cathedral. He was offered the kingdom of Bohemia. There is a brass to his memory in Ely Cathedral in a good state of preservation.

[To be Continued.]

167.—**Huntingdonshire Grievances in 1642.**—The following petition is contained in a collection of papers left to the authorities of the British Museum by George III. It is dated A.D. 1642.

“To the Right Honourable, the Knights, Citizens, and Burgesses of the House of Commons now assembled in Parliament.

“The Petition of the Countie of Huntingdon *Sheweth*, That your unwearied labours, and indefessive endeavours for the publike good and safety of the whole Kingdome, have exstimulated us not onely to acknowledge obsequiously the same, but also have respectively induced us to present our lives and estates at your command, and Order.

“The grievances, which for a long time hitherto have sorely oppressed us, have partly beene cleared by our endeavours, and partly remaine still to the molestation of us all ; which we really suppose to be retarded by a malignant party, which are acknowledged to be the sole obstacles of your proceedings.

“Our humble addresse is therefore to your Honours, that you would bee graciously pleased to devote the Popish Lords, Bishops, and others from the House of Peeres, and exeuterate those evill Councillours from that Illustrious Assembly. For wee finde that by their mischievous designes your endeavours are not onely frustrated, but the very priviledges of the Parliament broken, and the liberty of the subjects debilitated, and the Members of both Houses unassured of their lives to the great preindioe of the whole Kingdom, especially a Religious member of the House of Peeres, the Lord of Kimbolton in our Shire, who was impeached by his Maiestie of High Treason ; but wee are confident of his Loyaltie, and have so absolute an opinion of him that he is not guiltie of the least of these Articles wherein he was arraigned.

“Wherefore we humbly implore your Honours, that hee, and other may enjoy the freedome and liberty of the Parliament according to the legall progresses of Law, and the ancient customes and Rights of Parliamentarie tryalls.

“To the granting of which Petition, desire we recommend our Service and Zeale unto your Honours, humbly beseeching you to reflect upon our Petition.

“*So your Petitioners will be bound to pray, &c.*”

"The Lord of Kimbolton in our Shire" here mentioned, was Edward Montagu, the famous Parliamentary General. It is probable that he was born at Kimbolton Castle, as Collins alludes to him as a countryman of Cromwell's. He was educated at Sidney College, Cambridge, where he took the degree of Master of Arts. At the coronation of Charles I., he was made a Knight of the Bath; and he afterwards represented Huntingdonshire in four Parliaments, till he was called by a writ to the House of Peers, as Baron of Kimbolton, his father being then living. In 1640 he was one of the Commissioners appointed to treat with the Scots at Ripon, and he now became extremely popular from his endeavours to support the sinking liberties of his country. In the following year, through the fatal counsel of the Queen, and Lord Digby, the King had him accused of High Treason, together with five leading members of the House of Commons. This act tended greatly to exasperate the nation, and caused the foregoing petition to be sent up from his native county. When the plots and counter-plots of both parties had driven them to appeal to arms, Lord Kimbolton, engaging in the service of the Parliament, had the command of a regiment in the battle of Edgehill, October 23rd, 1642. On the 7th of the following November, he succeeded his father as Earl of Manchester. He was five times married. He died suddenly at Whitehall, in May, 1671, in his sixty-ninth year, and was buried in the Parish Church of Kimbolton.

CHARLES DAWES.

**168.—Rare Occurrence.**—From the following well authenticated facts it appears that the rare event of having triplets at a birth is not confined to the genus homo, but extends on very rare occasions indeed to the bovine species. In the Spring of 1887, on a small farm in the occupation of Mr. Simpson, of Addlethorpe, a young cow dropped three male calves; the family all did well and prospered, and were bought at three months old by Mr. Walter Welsh, who fed them, partly at Dalderby and partly near the place of their birth in the Marsh, until arriving at the mature age of 3½ years, and being in prime condition, he sold

them in September last to Mr. Alfred Goodyear, of Haltham, who killed them at the average weight of 64 stones 4 lbs. This profitable cow has since produced twin calves on two occasions.

C.J.C., Horncastle.

**169.—St. James' Hospital, Lynn.**—In the Minute Book of the Peterborough Gentlemen's Society is the following entry:—  
 "1735, Sep. 23. Mr. Kennet presented an ancient seal, lately found at Caster, with the image of St. James the Apostle, neatly carved upon wood, and the arms of Lynn upon it, with this legend round it COM : SIGILL : HOSPIT : S. IACOBI. IN. LENNARE."

**170.—Turf Houses.**—I have heard the expression "Turf Houses" applied to licensed premises at fairs in the Fen district. What is the meaning of the term? T.A.G., March.

**171.—Salmon in the Nene.**—On Wednesday, the 11th Sept., 1822, a fish of the salmon species, and called a *hook-bill salmon*, was caught in the river Nene, about two miles from the town of March. It weighed upwards of 16 lbs., and measured 42 inches.

**172.—The Wise Woman of Market Deeping.**—A newspaper cutting, dated Nov. 29th, 1822, says: "Lucy Barber, the 'wise woman' of Market Deeping, was taken before the Magistrates at Bourn, on a charge of extorting money, under pretence of foretelling future events, from Mrs. Odell, wife of Mr. Odell, hatter, of Deeping. After a suitable admonition from the Magistrates, she was discharged, on paying expenses, and promising not to offend again."

**173.—Lynn Hustings.**—At the Norfolk Lent Assizes, in 1823, a case *Allen v. Ayre* and another was tried. The plaintiff who, during a Parliamentary Election at Lynn, the year before had been Mayor, had obtained a verdict against two inhabitants of that Borough, for damage done to the hustings, and subsequently the defendants obtained a rule to show cause why such verdict should not be set aside, and a nonsuit entered. The case came on for argument in the Court of King's Bench

before Justices Bayley, Holroyd, and Best, when the latter in giving his opinion that the hustings was not a building within the meaning of the Act, observed, if it were, every booth in a fair might come under the same denomination. The Judges were also unanimously of opinion that the Mayor could have no pretence to bring an action against the town, as he had no interest in the hustings, and that the rule must therefore be made absolute.

**174 —The Will of Margaret Ashbye, of Wacotte (Walcott), co. Northampton, widow.**—The husband of testatrix, Fras Ashby was probably of Walcote in the parish of Barnack in this county (who contributed 50*l.* towards the expences of repelling the Spanish Armada in 1588) 2nd son of Everard son of Willm A of Loseby, co. Leic (ob. 1499) & Agnes his wife (ob. 1492) dau. of Sir Richd Illingworth, Chief Baron of the Exchequer. Everard A mar. Mary dau. of Willm Baude of Somerby, co. Linc. William elder brother of Francis was Queen Elizabeth's ambassador to James 6th of Scotland, who died s.p. in that country in 1589. Frances A mar. Margaret dau. & heir of Philip Barnard of Aldenham, Herts. who mar 1st Sir Barnard Whetstone of co. Essex, & secondly Robert Brown of Walcott, (in the parish of Barnack,) co. Northampton, esq. The latter made his will 17 Oct 14 Eliz (1572) & pr in P.C.C 14 Feb. following by his widow & extx Margaret, who by her will given below mar. her 3rd husband Frances A., by whom she had no issue. (Sir) William Brown, K.B., her son by second husband, was bur. at Barnack, 20 Feb. 1608-4, and whose younger brother, Robert was cr. a Bart. 21 Sept. 1621, bur. 25 Sept. 1623, a title that expired on the death (unm.) of Robert, 3rd Bart., bur. at St. Michael's, Stamford, 3 Mch 1670-1. Margaret Ashbye of Wacotte (Walcott) co. Northampton. widow, made her will 28 June 1594, pr. in P.C.C. last day of Apl 1596. My body to be buried in the chapel of (S. Mary in) the parish church of Barnack as near unto my late husband Robt. Browne as conveniently may be. To the poor of Barnack £10 to be bestowed upon the said poor people of the said parish. Item

whereas my son Willm Browne oweth me £20 whereof £10 was bequeathed unto me by my dau. Judith Underne, & the other £10 was bequeathed by my said dau. Judith U to my late husband Fras A., esq., & my will is that the said sums my son shall pay it to the Right Honble the Lady Lucy St. John (\* 1609. The Ladie Elizabeth Saint John, widdowe, was buried the ffirst daie of December = Wakerley p.r.) my goddau. wife of the Right Honble Lord St. John son and heir apparant to the Right Honble the Marquis of Winchester (Willm. 4th Marquis mar. Lucy 2nd dau. of Sir The Cicil 2nd Baron Burghley & first Earl of Exeter, K.G., & by her (who ob. in 1614) had 6 sons & dying 4 Feb 1627-8 was succeeded by his 3rd son John) afterwards a distinguished royalist officer & the brave defender of Basing house): he had 8 wives but not one named *Lucy*. £10 to be bestowed in some pretty jewell according to her ladyships liking. The other £10 to the Right Honble the Lady Dorothy Cecill (d & coh. of John Neville Baron Lattimer, died in London 22 May 1608, & first wife of Sir Thos Cecil (Knted at Kenilworth 17 Eliz., cr. Earl of Exeter 4 May 1605, died 7 Feb. 1621-2) to bestow upon a pretty jewell according to her ladyships liking. To my son Bernard Whitstons (bur. at Barnack 21 Feb. 1600-1) my pair of livery pots of silver & parcel gilt, a pair of silver candlesticks, my silver chasing dish, & my gilt salt with the bear on the cover of it which was my fathers upon condition that he shall leave the said parcels of plate to his children. To my son William Browne (afterwards Knted, as a K.B., will pr. 16 Mch 1603-4, & bur. at Barnack 20 Feb. previous) a bason & an ewer of silver parcel gilt, the ewer being of the fashion of the silver bason and ewer that I gave him before, & my 2 great cups with covers called pomegranets, half a doz. of silver plate trenchers, gilt pepper box & all the household stuff which was his fathers which is yet remaining in his hands & not already delivered unto him. Item I give unto my son Robt. Browne my great bason & ewer of silver parcel gilt, a neast of boules, either the 3 gilt boules without a cover or the parcel gilt boules with the cover at his choice to be made within one month after my death, my silver spice box and my silver jug.

Item I give unto my son Francis Whitstons (who was living in 1621 at Longthorpe) the other neast of boules, either the gilt or the parcel gilt boules with the cover which my said son Robt B shall refuse to make choice of. And also I give unto my said son Robt B my greatest gilt cup with a cover To my said son Francis W my new gilt cup with a cover & a silver drinking pipe. To Katherine W wife of my said son Fras W my gilt casting bottle. To my said son Fras W my greatest silver bell salt with a cover. I will that my son Robt W shall have my 10 silver spoons with gilt "knoppes," with the letters R & E upon the "knoppes," my silver carving spoon, and my silver snuffers. To my son Robt. W. my white silver bowl, a drinking pipe of silver, a silver salt without a cover, & my book of gold. My son Fras W shall have my mazar with the cover & foot gilt. Unto Margaret Underne, my grandchild, a silver tun, a covar, her little silver drinking cup, a little silver salt, a perfumery pan of silver, a lye pot of silver, a poriger of silver, a silver showing horn a comfit box of silver, an eye cup of silver, a toasting fork of silver a (t) both ends & her owne little goblet of silver parcel gilt, a silver hook, tooth pick, bodkin & lacing taggs, & a chain pearl & pomander being 3 rows of pearls & bugle to every pomander. To my grandchild Mary W daughter unto my son Barnard W my chain of gold being now worth above £40 the same to be made up 100 mks by my executors either in money, goods, or chattels, & my ring with (a) table diamond. I will that my nephew Robt. Nanton (Elizabeth only sister of testatrix husband Fras Ashby mar. Henry Naunton of Alderton co. Suffolk, esq., son of Willm N., & Elizabeth his wife daughter of Sir Anthony Wingfield, K.G. Their eldest son, named in the will, Robt N of Letheringham priory, esq., Knited at Windsor, 17 Sept. 1615; principal Sect. of State 1618-20; afterwards Master of the Court of Wards & Liveries, died 1630, mar. Penelope d. & h. of Sir Thos. Perrot, Knt., & of the lady Dorothy his wife (dau. of Walter Devereux Earl of Essex, & afterwards remar. to Henry Percy Earl of Northumberland) shall have immediately after my death all the lands at Twyford in Leicestershire which was his uncles

Fras Ashbys my late husbands, the same to be discharged and freed from the estate which his said uncle did enter into with M<sup>r</sup> Robt. Wingfield and M<sup>r</sup> Fras Harrington for the perfiting and assuring of my jointure so as my said nephew do ratify and confirm such leases as I shall hereafter make thereof of any part or parcel thereof. Also I give him my tablet of gold whereon M<sup>r</sup> Ashbys picture is being enamelled black. To my nephews brother (William Naunton, esq, heir to his brother, mar. in 1612 to Anne dau. & coh. of Laur. Pelle, gent. ; she d. 30 Oct. 1628, he 11 July 1635. Their only son Robt., a sufferer in the cause of royalty. bur. 25 Jan. 1664-5 *æt* 52) my seal ring of gold with the ram's head (couped ar. armed or) graven thereon. To my said nephews sister (Elizabeth, who died unm) my pair of gold bracelets with the hares bones within the locks. To my son Michael Pickering to whom I have already given and paid £50 to the use of his children my gold ring with my seal of arms in it. Witnessed by Kath. Whitston & Annestus Densham. Mem. The day & year abovesaid the said Margaret Ashby appointed Fras Whitston, esq., & Robt. Brown her sons exors in the presence of Kath. W. & Annestus D. Mem. Tnat on the 21st of April 1595 by word of mouth she (testatrix) uttered as follows, that is to say, all her goods & chattells not before bequeathed were to be equally divided between her three sons Fras. Whitston, Robt. Browne & Robt. Whitstons in the presence of us, Robt. Wilkinson, Martin Denham. & Thos Walker. Pr. last day of Apl 1596, by Thos Lovell not. pub. for exors.

JUSTIN SIMPSON, Stamford.

175.—**Fen Pumps, No. 3.**—(No. 157, Part VII.)—Mr. S. Egar's communication on this subject raises a question which I have often desired to see discussed, namely; When were mechanical means for assisting drainage first applied in the Fen Country? Mr. Egar's statement is dogmatic, though vague: "Water Mills, "as these Wind Drainage Engines were usually called, were first "erected in the Levels in the early part of the 18th century or "the latter part of the 17th." I think I shall be able to shew



that he is wrong, whatever construction may be put upon the above quoted sentence.

In the Calendar of State Papers, now in course of publication by the Record Commission, there is an abstract of a letter dated April 2nd, 1592, addressed by one Guillaume Mostact to Lord Burghley, stating that the writer had undertaken to drain the Fens of Coldham and praying—"that no grants of the sole "privilege of draining may be allowed to interfere with his, he "having perfected such an engine as was never seen in the king-  
"dom, and which he requests that no one may be allowed to "imitate for 21 years." [Cal. S.P. 1591—1594 CCXLI. 14.] I have seen this letter in the Record Office, and it contains no information as to the mechanical means employed.

In the same office are preserved some documents connected with a Chancery Suit, in the time of Queen Elizabeth, relating to the Coldham estate. They are much defaced, and in places illegible, but an engine and other improvements for the purpose of draining the estate are mentioned. Whether the engine in question was a wind mill may be doubted, but it is a curious fact that in one of the maps illustrating Dugdale's History of Imbanking and Draining [2nd Edn., page 244] two wind mills are shown as standing on the Coldham estate, near Friday Bridge, and on the bank of the river Ay (or Ea). The same map shews several wind mills in Marshland. Of course these may have been corn mills, but in the case of the Coldham estate I do not believe they were. Now Dugdale's collection of materials for his history was made in 1643, and the first edition was published in 1652. I have in my possession a map of the Coldham estate, dated 1684, which shows two wind mills with drains distinctly indicated as leading to them. These mills discharged their water into the Elm Leam, and it may be assumed that they are the same mills as those shown on Dugdale's map.

That there was at least one other engine for drainage in the Fens early in the 17th century is conclusively proved by Hayward's Survey [Well's Bedford Level, II., 210], which is dated 1635—6. In this an "Engine bank at Oxney" is spoken of. In the St.

Ives Law of Sewers [1638], which Scheduled the Lands decreed to the Adventurers, 26 acres, part of the Oxney Farm, abutting northward upon *the old Engine*, are set out. Sir Jonas Moore's map shows this *old Engine* at Oxney as well as a mill at Friday Bridge. This map is not dated, but it is based on a Survey which must have been made before 1661.

It is clear then that Engines of some sort were employed at an earlier date than has hitherto been generally supposed, and there is a strong presumption that wind was used as the motive power before 1650.

In conclusion, I may note that Sergeant Callis in his Lectures on the Law of Sewers, delivered in 1622, alluded to "mills" in a rather contemptuous manner. He says: "This Goat is no such "imaginary Engine as the Mills be which some rare wise men of "late have invented but this invention is warranted by experience, "the other is rejected as altogether chargeable and illusory" [Callis Law of Sewers. *Goats*.] It is evident that mills had then been projected, and it seems probable that some were in use at that time.

The Calendar of State Papers, to which I have previously referred, furnishes additional evidence of the invention of engines for drainage in the first quarter of the 17th century.

Thus in 1617, Michael Van Elderhuys, a stranger, obtained a patent for "a new engine invented by him for raising water and "draining surrounded grounds." [Cal. S.P., 1611,—1618, xc. 103].

And in 1622, Robert Ramsay and John Jack had "a grant of "the Exclusive privilege of making an Engine invented by the "said J. J. and David Ramsay page of the Bedchamber to raise "water to drain land and mines." [Cal. S.P., 1619,—1623, cxxxii.]

I may add that this Calendar contains abstracts of many important and interesting documents relating to the drainage of the Fenland. The series is too voluminous to be generally accessible, and I venture to think that some pages of *Fenland Notes and Queries* might be usefully occupied in bringing some of these papers under the notice of Fen men. WILLIAM C. LITTLE.

176.—**Spalding Gentlemen's Society.**—A very successful meeting of this Society was held at the Johnson Hospital on Tuesday, November 4th, 1890, and it is not too much to affirm that if its members will only give their hearty co-operation there is no doubt that the effort made last year to revive this, which is believed to be the oldest Antiquarian Society in the kingdom, will meet with its due reward. It may not be amiss to state that some twenty names have recently been added to its roll of members, and the meetings are held quarterly. Hitherto every meeting has produced some interesting matters to the Society.

After preliminary affairs, which included the election of several new members, had been disposed of, the President called upon Major Moore for a report of his interview with Dr. Woolward, at the British Museum respecting the horns and scull which were exhibited at the last meeting of the Society. They were found eleven feet below the surface, on the farm of Mr. Caulton, at Crowland, in February last, and undoubtedly belonged to the red deer. It is supposed that they had been buried some 400 or 500 years. The incrustations give them a very handsome appearance, and are due to the presence of the *velvet* when they were interred. Major Moore saw all the specimens of similar deer in the Museum, but there was nothing at all equal to these. He left there, at Dr. Woolward's request, some of the soil, consisting of silt and sea shells, in which they were found.

Dr. T. J. Walker, of Peterborough, then exhibited a selection from his collection of Roman coins, ornaments, urns, &c. All those brought before the Society had been obtained from Peterborough or the immediate neighbourhood, and Dr. Walker gave an address on their significance. By the aid of plans and maps he shewed the position and importance of the large station which was situate at Castor on the Nene, four miles above Peterborough; he gave reasons for agreeing with those who believe that this was Durobrivæ, the seventh station mentioned in the fifth Itinerary of Antoninus. Among the exhibits from Durobrivæ were portions of a tessellated pavement, some twenty feet square, which Dr. Walker had himself seen turned up by the plough in Sutton field,

close to where the old Roman road, Ermine street, crosses the river at Castor. Dr. Walker then detailed the circumstances under which he had obtained a large number of Roman relics within the limits of the Borough of Peterborough. There were still discernable extensive embankments and other indications of what appears to have been a summer camp, one of the *castra aestiva* of the Romans. The coins found here are all of the end of the first or beginning of the second century of the Christian era. The various ornaments, the *fibulae*, rings, bangles, &c., were all in excellent preservation; and the bones of the skeletons which must have lain there nearly 2000 years were many of them perfect. The most beautiful object exhibited was a little equestrian statnette, three inches high, which was discovered in 1886. It represents a fully armed warrior with crested helmet, fringed scarf thrown over the left shoulder, the end floating in the wind, the legs protected by greaves, the right arm extended to hold a spear which has disappeared, and on the left, which is dropped by the side, a lozenge shaped shield with large central boss and scroll pattern. The proportions of the horse are rude and clumsy, contrasting strangely with the elegance and spirit of the figure of the rider. This, believed to be the only Roman equestrian figure ever found in Great Britain, was figured in the transactions of the British Archæological Association for 1888.

The Rev. Conway Walter, of Langton, near Horncastle, also read a paper on "the Influence of the dialect of Lincolnshire and East Anglia in the formation of Standard English," shewing the value of the writings of the Gilbertine Monk, Robert Manning of Bourne, whose poem "the Handlyng Synne" (A.D. 1303), though long preserved in the British Museum, has only been published recently in a limited edition for the Roxburgh Club, and whom Mr. Kington Oliphant has justly pronounced to be "the Patriarch of Modern English."

Four gentlemen were subsequently proposed for election as regular members, and one as an honorary member, of the Society. The ballot for these will take place in January.

MARTEN PERRY, M.D., *Pres.* S. G. S.

177.—**Crowland and Whittlesea, 1792.**—On June 17th, 1792, a lengthy law suit between Crowland and Whittlesey came to an end. An MS., in the possession of Mr. B. W. Ground, of Whittlesea, heads the case as follows:—"Lincolnshire, Holland: The King against the Inhabitants of Whittlesea in the Isle of Ely." The MS. goes on to say: "This Suit was commenced on Account of the said William Searle and Family becoming chargeable to the Parish of Crowland from which place they removed him by Order of Justice as Quarter Sessions on Supposition of his belonging to the Parish of Whittlesea he having served as an Apprentice for the Term of Seven years To one Fawn a Blacksmith and from which place he afterwards went to Thorney and served one Dobson for the Space of One Year but Dobson was a Certificate Man from Farcett; therefore could not gain no Settlement and he afterwards went to live at Crowland at which place he Married a a Widow Woman who had always paid Rates as he did afterwards, but those Rates was deducted from his Rent, therefore no Settlement was gained on that ground.

"But he had been Sworn a Pig Ringer by the Court Leet and paid fourpence for his Oath and served the Office several years.

"He also was Appointed Ale Taster and Bread Weigher; But for which he was never sworn into Office and only served in that Capacity half a Year; therefore it seems to rest entirely upon the Office of a Pig Ringer which is an Annual and Parochial Office and not a Lucrative place; on those grounds Whittlesea supported their Defence got their cause; each party paying their own expences, except what Whittlesea Expended in maintaining the Family while the Cause was depending and some other Trifling Expences It Cost each Parish £108 13s. 3d. N.B. It is to be observed that Cause was laid before the Quarter Sessions at Spalding three times. The last time there were four Justices two of them would have Quash'd the first Order upon Whittlesea, but not having a Majority was the Cause of its being removed to the Court of Kings Bench and Tryed before Lord Kenyon; who likewise Rejected it the first time of hearing for Nonsufficient Statement of the Cause; but after coming again and being re-

stated Lord Kenyon as well as the whole Court were of one mind that the Man and his Family belonged to Crowland as above."

**178.--Names of Towns, Villages, &c., in the Fens.**—It is noticeable that the names of places that are more or less above the level of the surrounding Fen land end in ey, (*Ey*, Saxon for island), and there can be no doubt that when what is now Fen land was a waste of waters, these places stood out as islands, and got named for some peculiarity as : Ely is said to be called so from the quantities of eels that were caught there, others were named from different causes, of which there is no record. The principal places are : Ely, Thorney, Ramsey, Whittlesea, Eastrea, Stonea, Manea, Coveney, and Wardy Hill. On the south of Ely are several small places : Stuntney, Northney, Quaney, Haney, Barwey, Fordey, Padney, Eye Hill, and Shippey Hill. Some places as now spelt end in ea, as Whittlesea, Manea, and others ; but in old documents we find they all end in ey.

W.W.G.

**179.—Strange Discovery of Silver Coins at Holbeach.**—The *Spalding Free Press* of December 16th, 1890, says :—On Friday, the 5th inst., while two men were ploughing in Mr. F. Howard's "Twenty-six Acre," which adjoins the Washway-road, beyond Saracen's Head, one of them (Mr. Hubbard) felt the ploughshare strike some hard substance. He returned about five yards to see what it was, and was greatly surprised to see a quantity of silver coins spread over the land. They had been scattered out of a small earthenware jar which had been smashed into pieces by the blow from the plough. The man was so astonished and shouted so loudly to stop his mate, who was ploughing in front of him, that his voice was heard a quarter of a mile away in all directions. Consequently, the news spread like wild-fire, and from the small hamlet it went throughout the neighbouring villages. In travelling, the report grew into a "pot of gold," and was the chief theme of discussion for several days. One enterprising publican from Holbeach offered the men ten pounds for their find, while report hath it that a certain gentleman offered a sovereign for a

single coin. The men were, however, proof against all offers, and handed the money to Mr. Howard, of Long Sutton, their master, who had expressed a wish to receive it. There were 29 pieces in all—sixpences, shillings and florins, belonging to the reigns of Edward VI. (3), Marie (1), and Elizabeth (25). The last were dated from 1561 to 1562. The coins were in a splendid state of preservation, their only fault being that some were worn round the edges, and the lettering was not readable. The pot was of brown earthenware, unglazed inside, with no lid, and a small handle. From the remains it would be about six inches deep. In the coin collectors' lists the value of Elizabethan shillings ranges from 2s. to 5s., and Edward VI. sixpences from 3s. to 7s. Of course, to local antiquaries they would be more valuable, being found in the district. How is it there is no museum in the district where such treasures might be inspected by the public if not claimed by the Crown?

**180.—Whaplode Drove Church in Chancery.**—The following report appeared in the *Morning Herald*, May 29, 1823:—Vice-Chancellor's Court, May 28.—In *re* Chapel of Whaplode Drove. This was a petition of certain individuals in the parish of Whaplode Drove, praying that it might be referred to the Master to inquire into the money arising from certain charity lands, attached to this Chapel; and also that the Minister, the Rev. Mr. Blundell, officiating in the said Chapel, might be removed, on the ground that the money arising from the lands was misapplied, and that the Minister was not a resident of the parish; that he neglected his sacred functions, and, in short, was not such a person as the parishioners required; also that some allowance should be made the Churchwardens. It appeared that the lands in question were granted by Queen Elizabeth to John Coppinger and Thomas Butler, for the maintenance of a Minister, who should be a resident in the parish. Another complaint was, that, by a deed executed in 1795, new Trustees had been appointed, (and the property in question conveyed to their trust), who did not reside in the parish. It was alleged, by affidavit, that bodies

were frequently buried without the performance of divine service.

Mr. Heald appeared for the parishioners. He said the only question was, whether the Trustees were duly appointed—they were not duly appointed, for by the original grant it was necessary that they should be residents of the parish of Whaplode Drove.

Mr. Bell, on behalf of the Minister and Trustees, accounted in an instant for a body having been buried without the funeral service. He stated that the rev. gentleman had waited some hours beyond the time appointed for the interment of the body, but nobody appearing, and the night rapidly advancing, the rev. gentleman proceeded homewards, when he met the body, and again returned. The chapel, unfortunately, being thatched, and small particles of straw floating in the atmosphere of the building, it was agreed not to introduce a candle into the premises (for it was night), lest a conflagration might ensue. So that of two evils they chose the least, that is, that the body should be buried without funeral rites, till the following Sunday.

His Honour the Vice-Chancellor said it was impossible to remove the Minister, but he would order it to be referred to the Master to approve a scheme for the appointment of new Trustees, having regard to the instructions in the deed of 1795 ; also to approve of a proper scheme for the appointment of the Minister in future, and for the future application of the charity.

This case gave rise to a wordy newspaper warfare, which was carried on in the columns of the *Stamford Mercury*, and it is presumable that feeling ran high in the parish as the controversialists epistles were inserted as advertisements, at so much per line, and as some of the writers were very verbose considerable sums of money, must have been expended in the literary war. "A constant Reader," writing in June 11th, 1823, questions the accuracy of the report, as it appeared in the *Morning Herald*, and at some length defends the action of the Trustees. He concludes by referring to the petitioners as follows :—

"In order to help out and render more plausible this their appeal, they raked together whatever might serve the purpose ; and among other matters, that the incumbent has another living,



that he once omitted due funeral rites to a corpse, and that he has a curate whose voice is inaudible. Of these, as not coming under its jurisdiction, the court took no notice. The counsel for the defendants, however, briefly stated—that, though the incumbent did not reside, he took the duty every alternate Sunday, agreeably to a plan that was laid down by the then Bishop—that he engaged the curate at the Bishop's request, to help out his own small living—and he might have further added, the objections here preferred were once brought before the said Bishop, at the house, and I believe in the presence, of Dr. Johnson, at Spalding, the result of which was a message first and a personal request after, that things should continue as before. As to the corpse, the counsel also, and very correctly, stated, that though the funeral had been fixed positively for six o'clock, it did not come till considerably after nine, when it was become dark, and the minister had to walk five miles—that the chapel was in the act of taking down—that the materials were stowed in the aisles—the reed littered on the floor—no candles at hand, nor to be had at a less distance than nearly a quarter of a mile—that, in consequence of these, the reverend gentleman took the corpse to the grave, and read over it what is usually read there—which is not only, he said, reasonable, but what the rubric commands, and consequently also what the law requires.”

A reply was published to this, but the writer did not append his name. He calls in question a statement that, “The *body* of the chapel was *not taken down* till two months after,” and says:—“I asked him was not the chancel *then taken* or in the act of being *taken down*? and were not the aisles filled with slate and other building materials, and the chapel littered from one end to the other?—2dly, “The funeral was in August;” as if by that he could justify the time or respite the allegation of darkness. It occurred, I believe on the 28th, when the sun sets at 7 o'clock; and therefore I leave the public to settle the rest, if, as he cannot deny, the funeral was brought only at 9.—3dly, “Candles might have been had at the parsonage.” I admit they probably might; but as, on enquiry, there were none in the chapel, nor, the Clerk

said, nearer than the shop of Mr. Goodyer, which is the distance I mentioned,—and as, from that time, (because it was then thought the chapel would be taken down forthwith,) all funerals must be interred without going in, the corpse was taken to the grave, as before specified—a thing which certainly would not have been done, however, had the funeral been in proper time.”

With reference to the funeral incident, he says:—“The facts are: Some time before the event in question, a person died in the hamlet; and, as usual, for some cause or other, no notice was given to the curate, who resides two miles off, till noon of the day of the intended funeral. The curate unfortunately was gone to Stamford on business: in consequence, a messenger, more stupid than the ass he rode, was sent to Crowland. There was a funeral fixed there at about the same time. In consequence, a note was sent back, desiring them to delay half an hour, and the incumbent himself would ride over. Just, however, as he was mounting, Mr. Clark drove up on his return, and having learnt the particulars, set off immediately to take the funeral in his way home. Now though the people, to a proverb, are never punctual to the time they fix, this, for some cause or other, was made an exception. In consequence, as the clergyman was approaching the chapel, the sun shining and likely for some time to shine gloriously, he met the procession coming back; and, on enquiry, was told that he was “not ready, nor they disposed to wait, they had e’en put the old man in his bed.” Shocked and disgusted, he knew not what to do; but as the incumbent would have the duty there the next day, he wrote to him on the subject. What could be done? At first a prosecution against the parties was thought of; but it appeared a general opinion of those he consulted, that “the fellow was not worth shot and powder.” The service, in consequence, was read over the grave.”

Continuing his comments on the previous letter the writer goes on:—“The incumbent,” he says, “so far from alternate duty, sometimes does not come once in two months.”—If he had said—sometimes *has not done so*, he might have been right. But, in justice he would have said how long ago, and for what cause,

which was no other than the then impassable state of the road."

He also published a private note, as bearing on the matter, and which deserves to be reproduced not only as a literary curiosity, but as containing a well drawn picture of a Fen man, half a century ago :—

" Dear Sir,

" As you were not at the Visitation, I think it proper to inform you, that as I and several more were standing at the Peacock, a dapper little fellow came bustling across the market place, of that anomalous description which is neither man nor boy, but which, in its own opinion, is more than both. His fen-boots—(for fortunately I took particular notice)—glistened in the sun with reflection from the oil ;—his beaver was quaintly tucked up before, and at the same time artfully placed to make the most of his person. His eyes were in two directions at once, blinking like the emblem of wisdom in day-light ; but whether this may be natural, or it might proceed from the prodigious expansion of his views, as he came squirting the large laps of his funny little coat, I am not quite able to say. However, certain it is he no sooner attained the steps, than with a hop, skip, and jump, he also attained the summit ; and forthwith began to thread his way, with important speed, under the elbows of those who, otherwise, might have impeded his career, to the room of office. When there I understand, he began to produce some very serious, though, it was thought, groundless, accusations against yourself. And not knowing the extent of the allegation, if not timely and properly met, I have been induced to give you these outlines of his phiz and character, that you may not only recognise his person, but counteract his accusation, &c.

" I remain," &c.

Then comes Mr. William Blake, Chapel Warden of Whaplode Drove, who is probably the person who is described above. He says :—Were there a good Clergyman resident in Whaplode Drove, who would perform divine service in a proper manner, the Chapel would then be attended by the parishioners, as it had used to be in the time of the late deceased minister, who did reside at the Drove, and had the curacy of Gedney Hill, both which duties

he performed for a great number of years in a proper manner, as a monument in the Chapel of Whaplode Drove has this inscription on it to testify :—

Erected

By Voluntary Contribution,

To the Memory of the

Rev. John Dinham, A.B.

Minister of this Chapel,

Who departed this life October the 14th, 1811,

Aged 50 Years.

Nearly half an age, with ev'ry good man's praise,  
Among his flock the shepherd pass'd his days,  
The friend, the comfort of the sick and poor,  
Want never knock'd unheeded at his door :  
All moan is death, his virtues long they try'd  
They knew not how they lov'd him till he dy'd.  
Peculiar blessing did his life attend ;  
He had no foe, to all he was a friend.

I now ask this fussy meddling fellow without a name, if he never heard or does not know that the Rev. Gentleman did admit and confess, to the astonishment of the Solicitor, then in vestry at Whaplode Drove, after the petition was drawn up and signed which is now before the Master in Chancery, that he (the rev. gentleman) did agree to pay all the expenses which had occurred, if the parishioners would not send the said petition to Chancery. Moreover, he said that he would find the hamlet a curate ; such a one as the parishioners would approve of ; and that he himself would come oftener amongst us. These promises met with the approbation of the vestry, and the rev. gentleman was allowed four days to consult with the old Feoffees upon the subject : but instead of coming to make good his promises, he wrote two long letters, one to me and the other to the Solicitor, saying that he would not be responsible for any expense that had or might occur, neither did he care who were or were not the Feoffees ;—and then, and not until then, was the petition sent to Chancery.

181.—**Curious Public House Signs in the Fens.**—"The Jack o' Both Sides" close to Chatteris (Cams.); near here too is

"The Four Alls." This refers to the king, parson, soldier, and farmer, the following explanation being given :—

"The king governs all;  
The parson prays for all;  
The soldier fights for all;  
The farmer pays all."

King's Lynn has "The Rump and Bustle," and St. Ives "Little Hell." On the North Bank (Peterborough) there are "The Dog-in-a-Doublet," and "The Cross Guns." I believe the sign of "The Galloping Donkey" is also still to be seen near Whittlesea. "The "Mad Cat," at Pidley, is explained by the fact that the artist in painting the sign of "The White Lion" made so poor an attempt that the house was afterwards known as "The Mad Cat."

N. EDIS, Stamford.

**182.—Hung in Chains in Guyhirn Wash.**—(No. 158, Part VII.)—The following appeared in the *Wisbech Advertiser* of Nov. 19th, 1890 :—"Antiquarians will be interested to learn that the apparatus known by the somewhat grim name of 'Paddy's Nightcap,' which belonged to the old Guyhirn gibbet-post, is still in existence. *Fenland Notes and Queries*, in its last quarterly issue, made a reference to the circumstances connected with the gibbetting of four Irishmen, in 1795, and this having been quoted in these columns, has elicited the fact that the iron framework, in which the culprit's head was fixed on the gibbet, is now in the possession of Mr. Edward Clark, of Guyhirn. It was popularly denominated 'Paddy's Nightcap,' and is of iron, round in shape, with cross-bars and having a heavy iron collar which fitted round the neck. The framework came into the possession of the late Mr. Joseph Peck many years ago, he having given a man ten shillings to fetch it down from the gibbet. It was preserved in one of his farm-buildings until he handed it over to Mr. Clark."

**183 —A Rare Clock.**—Mr. John Kingston of Fosdike, contributed the following particulars in the *Spalding Free Press*, of November 18th, 1890 :—

"I noticed in your last issue a paragraph in the Boston news giving a description of a notable clock, which was sold by auction

at Boston on the 4th inst. I have a notable clock, which, until I saw the before-mentioned paragraph, I held to be unique. It now appears that two clocks were made by a Mr. Bothamley, of Kirton, something considerably over a hundred years ago, for the purpose of denoting the day of the month, the moon's age and changes, and the time of tidal high water in Fosdyke Wash to the cattle drovers and travellers crossing the Wash. The clock recently sold at Boston was designed for use at the bridge or ford over the South Forty-foot Drain at Hubbert's Bridge, and it was there located for many years. The clock which I possess was designed for use at Fosdyke, and shows the phases of the moon by a globe painted half white and half black, revolving on a vertical spindle; the moon's age and the day of the month are denoted by separate hands and dials; but the really special novelty about the clock is that it shows the rising and falling of the tide in Fosdyke Wash, and points out by a hand on a separate dial when it was the safe and proper time for the guides and drovers with their cattle to start to cross the Wash—at that day a distance of two miles through the bare sands and shifting channels of the estuary. For many years, before tide tables and almanacs were so plentiful as now, this clock was located at the Old Inn at Fosdyke, and was the daily oracle consulted by guides and travellers crossing the Wash. Mr. Rothwell, the father of Mr. Rothwell still living at Fosdyke, took the clock as part of the inventory when he entered upon the tenancy of the Old Inn at Fosdyke in 1805, and it came into my possession in 1866. The clock is well made, and shows little or no signs of wear anywhere about its works; it has a dead beat escapement and a pendulum bob weighing 26lbs., and is a splendid timekeeper."

184.—*The Story of Bricstan of Chatteris*.—Mr. S. H. Miller, of Lowestoft, forwards us the following extract from Odericus Vitalis' "Ecclesiastical History of England and Normandy" (Book vi. ch. 10) being a letter bearing the name of the Bishop of Ely, but written by Warin des Essarts at the Bishop's request:—"In the time of Henry, King of England and Duke

of Normandy, in the sixteenth year of his reign over England, and the tenth of his government of the Duchy\* there was on the possessions of our church a certain free tenant called Bricstan, who lived at Chatteris. This man, according to the testimony of his neighbours, never injured any one, and, content with what he had, meddled not with what belonged to others. Neither very rich nor very poor, he conducted his affairs and brought up his family in moderate independence, according to the habits of laymen. He lent money to his neighbours who wanted it, but not at usury, while, on account of the dishonesty of some of his debtors, he required security. Thus holding a middle course, he was considered not better than other good men, nor worse than the ill-disposed. Being thus at peace with all mankind, and believing that he had not a single enemy, he was inspired by divine influence (as it appeared in the sequel) to entertain the desire of submitting himself to the rule of St. Benedict, and assuming the habit. In short he came to our convent dedicated to St. Peter the Apostle and St. Etheldrida, implored the favour of the monks, and engaged to put himself and all he had under their rule. But, alas! the evil spirit through whose malice Adam fell in paradise, will never cease from persecuting his posterity to the last man who shall exist. God, however, whose providence ordereth all things in mercy and goodness in his omnipotence bringeth good out of evil, and out of good what is still better. When, therefore, the news was spread abroad (for Bricstan, though his acquaintance was not extensive, was sufficiently well known), a certain man who was in King Henry's employment, but more especially a servant of the devil, interfered with malicious spite.

“We must make a short digression that you may understand what sort of man this was. His name was Robert Malart (which signifies in Latin *malum artificem*), and not without reason. He

\* The editor of Bohn's edition of Odericus remarks that as Henry I. was crowned King of England on August 5th, 1100, and obtained possession of the Duchy of Normandy September 28th, 1100 the circumstance here related occurred between September, 1115, and August, 1116.

had little else to do but to make mischief against all sorts of persons, monks, clerks, soldiers, and country folk; in short, men of all ranks whether they lived piously or the contrary. That I may not be accused of calumny, this was his constant practice, wherever he was able to vent his malice. He slandered every-one alike to the best of his ability, and exerted himself to the utmost for the injury of others. Thus, mischievous to one and another, he may be accounted among those of whom it is said that 'they rejoice to do evil, and delight in the frowardness of the wicked.' When he failed of truth for his accusations he became a liar, inventing falsehoods, by help of the devil, the father of lies. It would be impossible for any one, even if he had been his constant companion from childhood, to recount much more to commit to writing all the evil doings of this man, who was truly called 'thousand-craft';\* let us therefore proceed with our story.

"When Robert heard the news that Bricstan wished to assume the habit of a monk, he lost no time in accordance with the teaching of his master the devil, who is always lying and deceiving, in presenting himself at the convent. Having a false account to give, he began with a falsehood, saying: 'This Bricstan is a thief; he has fraudulently appropriated the King's money in secret, and wishes to become a monk, not to save his soul, but to save himself from the sentence and punishment which his crimes merit. In short, he has found a hidden treasure, and has turned usurer with sums clandestinely subtracted from what is the King's by right. Being therefore guilty of the grave offences of theft and usury, he is afraid to appear before the King or the judges. In consequence, I have the royal authority to forbid your receiving him into your convent. Whereupon, having heard the King's prohibition, and dreading his anger, we refused to admit the man into our society. What shall I say more? He gave bail, and was brought to trial. Ralph Basset was judge,† and all the principal

\* *Mille artifex*; a name commonly given to the devil in the Middle Ages.

† Ralph Basset was one of the minions of Henry I. whom he raised from a low origin to the highest offices in the state, in preference to his nobles.



men of the county were assembled at Huntingdon, according to the custom in England. I, Hervey, was also there with Reginald, Abbot of Ramsey, and Robert, Abbot of Thorney, and many clerks and monks. Not to make the story long, the accused appeared with his wife, the charges falsely made against him were recapitulated. He pleaded not guilty, he could not confess what he had not done; the other party charged him with falsehoods and made sport of him; he was indeed rather corpulent, and was short in stature, but he had, so to speak, an honest countenance. After having unjustly loaded him with reproaches, they pre-judged him, as in the case of Susannah, and sentenced him and all his substance to be at the King's mercy. After this judgment, being compelled to surrender all he possessed, he gave up what he had in hand, and owned where his effects were, and who were his debtors. Being, however, pressed to give up and discover more, he replied in the English tongue: *Wat min Laert Godel Mihtin that ic sege soth*, which means 'My Lord God Almighty knows that I speak the truth.' He often repeated this, but said nothing else. Having delivered up all that he had, the holy relics were brought into court, but when he was called upon to swear, he said to his wife: 'My sister, I adjure you by the love there is between us, not to suffer me to commit perjury; for I have more fear of perilling my soul than of suffering bodily torments. If, therefore, there is any reservation which affects your conscience, do not hesitate to make it known. Our spiritual enemy covets more keenly the damnation of our souls, than the torture of our bodies.' To this she replied: 'Sir, besides what you have declared, I have only sixteen pence and two rings weighing four drachms.' These being exhibited, the woman added: 'Dearest husband, you may now take the oath in safety, and I will afterwards confirm, in the testimony of my conscience, the truth you have sworn by the ordeal of carrying hot iron in my naked hand, in the presence of all who desire to witness it, if you so command. In short, Bricstan was sworn, he was then bound and carried in custody to London, where he was thrown into a gloomy dungeon.

[*To be continued.*]

185.—**Whittlesea Charities Inquisition, 1667.**—The following is an MS. record of this Inquisition, in the possession of Mr. B. W. Ground, of Castle House, Whittlesea :—

“An Inquisition Indented taken at Whittlesea within the Isle of Ely aforesaid on Tuesday the 28th day of January in the 19th Year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord Charles the second and in the Year of our Lord Christ One thousand six hundred and sixty seven Before William Colvill Humphrey Orme, Christopher Thursby and Thomas Edwards Esquires Commissioners Authorised by Virtue of Commission under the great Seal of England bearing date the 19th day of July last past to them amongst others directed for the due Execution of a certain Statute made in the High Court of Parliament holden at Westminster the 27th day of October in the 43rd Year of the Reign of the late Queen Elizabeth Instituted an Act to redress the Misemployment of Lands Goods and Stocks of Money heretofore given to Charitable Uses By the Oaths of Thomas Winter of Chatteris Thomas Reed of the same Francis Drake of Doddington James Granger of the same Thomas German of March George Young of the same Richard Sheep of Newton William Blaze of Tidd Saint Giles William Goat of the same Thomas Gales of Leverington Thomas Newdick of the same William Dawson of Elm Richard King of the same Richard Rands of Wisbech Saint Maries and Thomas Robinson of Upwell Good and lawful Men of the said Isle who being duly returned impannelled and sworn according to the said Statute and Commission do say upon their Oaths that John Speechly of Whittlesea deceased did by his Testament and last Will Give to the use of the Poor people of Whittlesey the sum of Twenty Pounds the Interest of the same to be Yearly Distributed upon Saint Thomas's Day by the Ministers and Churchwardens there for the time being amongst the Poor of that Township which we found to have been relieved accordingly performed and also says upon their Oaths Nicholas Davie late of Whittlesea deceased Did give to the Use of the poor People of the said Township Ten Acres of Land lying in Whittlesea the Profits of the same Land to be Yearly distributed amongst the said poor

People on Good Friday and Saint Thomas's Day every Year and that Thomas Davie Brother to the said Nicholas Davie and Ralph Laxon of Whittlesea aforesaid are Joint Trustees for the Disposal of the Profits of the said Lands and that the profits of the same hath been employed according to the Intent of the Donor and furthur say upon their Oaths that one Folliett did long since give and Settle One Messuage and Sixteen Acres of Land with the Appurtenances in Whittlesea for and Towards the Ease of the said Town of Whittlesea in the Maintenance of a certain Causeway called Aldrey Causeway in the Isle of Ely and Robert Coveney Gent<sup>n</sup> and Thomas Dow Deceased were Antiently Trustees in Trust for the said Lands and that the said Messuage and Lands are in the possession of Essex Coveney Gent<sup>n</sup> one of the Sons of Robert Coveney late of Stanground deceased In the County of Huntingdon Gent : or the assign or assigns of Robert Coveney the Father of him the said Essex Coveney and that there hath been since settled by the Court of the Exchequer Twenty six Acres of Fenny or Marsh Ground as an Improvement to the said Messuage and Sixteen Acres Viz. to the said Messuage Ten Acres and to the said Land Sixteen Acres which is likewise in the Possession of the Assigns of Robert Coveney Father to the said Essex And Also say upon their Oaths that Thomas Wiseman Gent. hath in his Hands as appears to them as well by his own Confession as upon other Evidence Ten Acres of Land lying in Whittlesea aforesaid in a certain place called the Turfs belonging to the said Township of Whittlesea the Profits whereof ought to have been Yearly employed for the Publick Use and Benefit of the said Township and that the said Lands were formerly set out as an Improvement to an half full Land belonging to the said Township in pursuance of a Decree between the Lord of the Manor and Tenants of Whittlesea aforesaid and for which said Half full Land he the said Thomas Wiseman is one of the Feoffees in the Interest of the said Township. And further say upon their oaths that the said Thomas Wiseman hath been in the Possession of the said Land which is Ten Acres for about Fourteen Years last past and that the same hath been Yearly worth three Pound per Annum

as the said Thomas Wiseman hath himself declared, And further say upon their Oaths the said Thomas Wiseman demanded to be due to him from the Town of Whittlesea and which hath been due to him £, and had the sum of Thirty Pounds In Witness whereof as well as the Commissioners as the Jurors above named to this Inquisition have set their Hand and Seals the Day and Year first above written. William Colville, Humphrey Orme, Christopher Thursby, Thomas Edwards, Thomas Winter, Thomas Read, Francis Drake, James Granger, Thomas German, George Young, Richard Sheep, William Blaze, William Goates, Thomas Gates, Thomas Newdick, William Dawson, Richard King, Richard Rands, Thomas Robinson; The Judgment Order and Decree of William Colville, Humphrey Orme, Robert Apiece, Christopher Thursby and Thomas Edwards Esquires Commissioners by Virtue of his Majesties Commission to them amongst others directed to Inquire of Lands Tenements Rents Annuities Profits Hereditaments Goods Chattels Money or Stocks of Money given to Charitable Uses in the Isle of Ely made at Whittlesea within the Isle aforesaid on Tuesday the 2d Day of June in the 20th Year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord Charles the second by the Grace of God of England Scotland France and Ireland King Defender of the faith &c and in the Year of our Lord 1668 as followeth:—

**Whereas** as well by an Inquisition Indented taken at Whittlesea within the Isle of Ely aforesaid the twenty-eighth day of January last before William Colville, Humphrey Orme, Christopher Thursby, and Thomas Edwards Esquires Commissioners By Virtue of a Commission under the Great Seal of England bearing date the Ninth day of July in the 19th Year of our Sovereign Lord Charles the Second by the Grace of God of England Scotland France and Ireland King Defender of the Faith &c. to them and others directed for the due Execution of a certain Statute made in the 43rd Year of the late Queen Elizabeth intituled an Act to direct the Misemployment of Lands Goods and Stocks of Money heretofore given to Charitable Uses by the Virtue by the Oaths of Thomas Winter, John Read, Francis Drake, James Granger, Thomas German, George Young, Richard Sharpe, William Blaze,

William Gates, Thomas Newdick, William Dawson, Richard King, Richard Rands, and Thomas Robinson, good and lawful Men of the said Isle as the Testimony of several Witnesses upon Oath the Perusal and Inspection of several Deeds Copies Writings Terriers Maps Inquisitions and Decrees as well in his Majesties Court of Exchequer or Court of Chancery Accounts and other things it was found and hath appeared unto the Commissioners by virtue of Commission above Recited whose Hands and Seals are hereunto set That One Nicholas Davie of Whittlesea deceased Did give and devise unto the Use of the poor people of the said Township of Whittlesea aforesaid Ten Acres of Fen or Marsh Ground lying in Whittlesea aforesaid in a place called Blackbush lying next the Lands of the Heirs of John Day South, Robert Speechly North the East end upon Common long Drove the Profits of the same to be Yearly disbursed amongst the said poor People on Good Friday and Saint Thomas's Day in every Year by Equal Portions as in and by the Testament and last Will of the said Nicholas Davie in the proved Prerogative Court of [left blank] and bear date 20th day of October in the Year of our Lord 1654 more and fully appeareth. *And further* that one Folliett did many years since give settle limit and appoint a Messuage and Sixteen Acres of Land with the Appurtenances in Whittlesea aforesaid for and towards the perpetual Ease of the Inhabitants of the said Town of Whittlesea in the Maintenance of their charge in a Causeway called Aldrey Causeway in the aforesaid Isle of Ely and that Robert Coveney Gent. Robert Beale Gent. and Thomas Dow late of Whittlesea aforesaid deceased were Antiently Feoffees In trust for the Employments of the Rents and Profits of the Messuage and Lands aforesaid for the use aforesaid And that now the said Messuage and Lands are in the Possession of Essex Coveney Gent. one of the Sons of Robert Coveney Gent, late of Standground in the County of Huntingdon deceased or his Assigns *And also* that there hath been since settled by and in Pursuance of a Decree out of the Court of Exchequer bearing date at Westminster the 12th day of February in the 14th Year of the Reign of the late King Charles the First of England &c Twenty six Acres of Fenny or

Marsh Ground out of the Wastes and Commons of the said Township of Whittlesea as an Improvement to the said Messuage And Sixteen Acres Viz : to the said Messuage and Ten Acres of Land and to the said Sixteen Acres of Land Sixteen Acres which said Twenty six Acres of Land are in the Possession of the Assign or Assigns of Robert Coveney Father of the said Essex Coveney And also that Thomas Wiseman of Whittlesea Gent. hath in his Hands as hath appeared as well by his own confession as upon the Evidence to us shown Ten Acres of Land lying in Whittlesea aforesaid in a certain place there called the Turves belonging to the said Township of Whittlesea the Profits whereof ought to have been Yearly employed for the Publick Uses and Benefit of the said Township And that the said Lands were formerly set out as an Improvement to an Half Full Land belonging the said Township in pursuance of a Decree of the Court of Exchequer above recited and for which said Half Full Land he the said Thomas Wiseman is one of the Feoffees in trust in the Interest of the said Township and that he the said Thomas Wiseman hath been in Possession of the said Ten Acres of Land for 14 Years last past The mean Profits arising Yearly to three Pounds unaccounted for and Undisposed of by him the said Thomas Wiseman hath in his own person acknowledged before us otherwise then that He the said Thomas Wiseman pretends to retain the the same in his Hand for and in Consideration of Thirty Pounds which he Claimeth to be due to him from the said Town of Whittlesea and which should have been paid to him by one Robert Coveney deceased out of certain Monies due to the said Town of Whittlesea which was remaining in the Hands of the said Robert Coveney *And Wherreas* also it hath appeared unto us that there hath been One Hundred Acres of Fenny or Marsh Ground set out by the Consent of the Lord and Tenants of the said Manors of Whittlesea aforesaid in Pursuance of a Decree of the Court of Exchequer above recited (that is to say) Fifty Acres in a Place there called the Turves abutting South upon Whittlesea Dike and West upon the Tenants Doles in Wype And the other Fifty Acres residue thereof in a certain place called Bassenhall Moor abutting

West upon Delph Dyke leading to Thorney South upon the River called Morton's Leam to be used in Severalty for the Publick Use and Benefit of the said Town of Whittlesea And that there are Two other parcels of Ground called or known by the Name of the Angle and the Pingle heretofore limited and appointed by the Lords and Tenants of the Manor of Whittlesea aforesaid to be used in Half severalty and the benefit of the same Yearly sold by the Lords Bailiff of the said Township for the Use and Benefit of the said Township And also one parcel of Land lying in Whittlesea aforesaid commonly called or known by the Name of the Common half Acre *And Whereas* it hath further appeared unto us that One Robert Coulson Brother and Heir of one John Coulson late of Whittlesea deceased did on or about the third Year of the late Queen Elizabeth Did Surrender One Cottage with a Garden adjoining and two half Full Lands with the Appurtenances to the Use of Thomas Dow, Oswald Speechley, and Robert Kelfull In Trust for the Publick Use of the said Township of Whittlesea which said Thomas Orme, Oswald Speechley, and Robert Kelfull are all deceased And also that there are two Alms Houses belonging to the said Township of Whittlesea situated in Old Whittlesea Street there and the Government of the same is no ways settled. *And Whereas* it hath further appeared unto us that there are several small Sums of Money amounting in the whole to Fifty-five Pounds six shillings and eight pence for which several Persons have given several Securities be Specialties some to the Minister and Churchwardens of the several Parishes of Whittlesea Saint Andrew and Whittlesea Saint Marys and some other to Private Persons as by a Schedule of the same Debts to these Presents annexed appeareth with Securities by the frequent delaying the receiving the same and by Omission of Calling the Monies in Convenient Times and for want of certain Persons instructed for the good Government of the same have proved much Damage to the said Township And also finding that the Annual Rents and Profits of the Lands and Tenements aforesaid have been lessened and fallen many times into the Hands of Persons unable to respond for the same and



the Inheritance too frequently of being lost by the long continuance of the same in the Hands of such particular Persons. And also for that the Donors heretofore giving and limiting the said Lands and Tenements nor any Decrees heretofore made for the Government of the same have provided for the best and most advantageous mode for the Interest of the said Township and for that most of the Trustees at first Assigned for Management of the same are dead For remedy and prevention of all the Inconveniences Misemployments and Misgovernments before recited We do Order and Decree that Thomas Davie the only Surviving Trustee for the Ten Acres of Land heretofore mentioned to be given by Nicholas Davie deceased to the use of the Poor of Whittlesea aforesaid And also that the aforesaid Essex Coveney Son of the aforesaid Robert Coveney late of Standground deceased and Grandchild of Robert Coveney of Whittlesea deceased which said Robert Coveney the Grandfather at the time of his death was the only Surviving Feoffee for the aforesaid Sixteen Acres given by the said Follieth for the perpetual Ease and benefit of the said Township of Whittlesey in the repair of Aldrey Causeway aforesaid And that William Maxey who was Assign of Robert Coveney Father of the said Essex in Possession of Sixteen Acres parcel of the Twenty-six Acres improved in the right of the said Messuage and sixteen Acres in a Place called the Turves in Saint Andrews D. Land Lott Abutting South upon Whittlesea Dike North upon Long Drove way and West upon the Lands of Francis Underwood Esquire And that one of the Assigns of the said Robert Coveney Father of the said Essex Coveney being in Possession of Ten Acres residue of the said Twenty-six Acres which last mentioned Ten Acres lie in a Place there called Bassenhall Moor In Saint Andrews Eight Cottage Lott abutting North upon a Drove was West upon the Lands of Thomas Wiseman Gent. South upon the Twenty-five foot Drain And also that the said Thomas Wiseman being in Possession of the aforesaid Ten Acres of Land lying in Whittlesea aforesaid in a place there called the Turves in Saint Andrews C. Lott abutting East upon the Lands of Francis Beville South upon a Droveway and North upon Saint Marys first Land Lott,



And Further that William Laxon and John Laxon who are the only surviving Trustees for the aforesaid Hundred Acres of Land whereof Fifty Acres lie in the Turves and Fifty Acres residue thereof in Bassenhall Moor as aforesaid heretofore limited and appointed for the Publick Use and Benefit of the Township of Whittlesea aforesaid do within three Months next coming after the date of these Presents Convey and Assure by good reasonable Conveyance and Assurance in Law to be devised unto Robert Bevill the Younger William Wiseman the Younger George Randall the Younger John Dow Robert Bailey Thomas Bradford William Higham Robert Boyce Son of Thomas Boyce Robert Colls William Rolt George Golding the Younger and George Burnham the Younger the several and respective Messuages Land and Tenements aforesaid and their several and respective Interests in the same as before mentioned so as the Estate in Law may be vested in the said Trustees to be persued and Executed by of Trust to and for the Interest and Benefit of the said Town of Whittlesea as hereafter shall be expressed and declared.

*To be continued.*

**186.—Wisbech School of Industry.**—In 1833, a “School of Industry” was established at Wisbech “for the purpose of instructing female children in reading, writing, arithmetic, and plain needlework,” and was held at the Exchange Hall. In 1834, the school numbered 51 children. It was perfectly unsectarian in its character. What became of this institution?

C. W., Lynn.

**187.—Burwell Church.**—Extracts from Notes made by Alexander Edmundson, Vicar of Burwell, 1725—1733, and bequeathed by him to his successors in the vicarage.

“This being the first year of my being here, and ev’rything almost being in great disorder, I began to rectifie what I found amiss, but particularly in relation to Church affairs. For, first, I found very few desirous of coming to Church: and, therefore, I read the King’s proclamation about keeping Sunday holy; which prevailed with some to come oftener to Church. Then I observed

that when Church was over, nay, even in church-time, they made no scruple of keeping their shops open and selling their goods on Sundays: and even some had so little sense of religion, that when I reprov'd 'em for not appearing at Church, they would answer, by way of excuse, that their customers came to buy things of 'em and so prevented 'em. This, therefore, I put down immediately, and also all barbers, etc., who were used, heretofore, to shave their customers on Sunday, pretending that they neither had leisure themselves to shave, nor had their customers leisure to be shaved on any other day. These two bad customs being pretty well broken, I began to enquire into the Church Endowments, and the charity money that had been left to the use of the poor. But these I found miserably misapplied, and many of 'em either embezzl'd to private purses, or lost. However, I got some light into these matters from the Inhabitants, and some from the writings which then remain'd in the Vestry: and then I lost no opportunity to recover what had been misapplied, and to settle it according to the Will of the Donor. In this my Predecessor (Mr. Badcock) had open'd the way, which made my work more easy; for he, finding that the Inhabitants had put the Church-Estate to improper uses, got an Order from the Arch-Deacon of Sudbury, Dr. Clagett, to have the church new pewed, which Order is as follows:—

“Whereas the right Rev. Father in God, Charles, Lord Bishop of Norwich (upon complaint made to his Lordship by divers of the inhabitants of the parish of Burwell, in the county of Cambridge, against the intended repairing of the seats of the said Church by making new pews in the same), hath specially authorised and appointed the reverend Nicholas Clagett, D.D., Arch-Deacon of Sudbury, his Visitor, to view and inspect any Defect, Decays, and Ruins in the said Church; And whereas the said Mr. Arch-Deacon, pursuant to his Lordship's special appointment, did on tuesday the six and twentieth day of June, 1716, personally appear in the said parish Church of Burwell in the presence of diverse of the said Inhabitants, and did then and there strictly view and inspect the seats of the said church,

‘and did find them much out of repair and ruinous ; He the said  
 ‘Mr. Arch-Deacon required and ordered all the said Church to be  
 ‘new pewed after the manner and form of five new pews lately  
 ‘erected and set up at the East end of the said Church, and the  
 ‘same to be painted in a decent manner as those 5 pews are at  
 ‘present, and shall soon be further painted. And he, the said  
 ‘Mr. Arch-Deacon, as the Bishop’s Visitor, has likewise ordered  
 ‘that there be a new pulpit made and set up of a larger size than  
 ‘the old one, and the sounding board to be directed to the middle  
 ‘of the church, and the desk to be repaired answerably to the  
 ‘pulpit, and conveniently situated, and the old seats in the Middle  
 ‘Isle to be quite removed. He has also enjoined the Font to be  
 ‘removed near to the Steeple and be placed on the west-side of  
 ‘the cross-Isle, there and directly over against the middle Isle of  
 ‘the church, and to be painted with the same paint wherewith  
 ‘the new pews of the church shall be adorned. And further,  
 ‘Mr. Arch-deacon has ordered that George Hassel, who has been  
 ‘Clarke and Sexton of the said parish for several years, should be  
 ‘continued in his said places and offices, and enjoy the same and  
 ‘the said profits thereof as formerly.

‘Nicholas Clagett, *Visitor.*’

“In presentia Hen. Goodwin, Not.

“In accordance with these orders, the pews, etc., were finished :  
 and in the same year there was a table hung up in the Church at  
 the Entrance of the Chancel as follows :—

“‘William Sigar and Thomas Catlyn gave, by their last Wills  
 ‘and Testaments\* five score acres of land with some Tenements  
 ‘called town houses, amounting to the yearly value of £40 and  
 ‘upwards, to be expended in upon about and towards the reparation  
 ‘and adorning of this church called St. Marie’s. 1716. Alex.  
 ‘Edmundson, *Vicar.*’”

NEVILLE BORTON, Vicar of Burwell.

\* Where those houses and tenements are I cannot hear.

**188.—Strange Discovery of Silver Coins at Holbeach.**—(No. 179, Part VIII).—A slight mistake has been made (a pardonable one from one who is evidently not a numismatist) in describing the silver coins discovered here in December last. They consisted of groats, sixpences, and shillings, and not any *florins*, which were not coined till the reign of her present Majesty. The issue (silver) of Edward VI., Mary I., and Elizabeth consisted of crowns, half-crowns, shillings, testoons, sixpences, groats, threepences, twopences, and pence. Elizabeth issued a three-halfpenny piece, somewhat rare, and milled shillings, sixpences, threepences, and half-crowns (the latter very rare).

JUSTIN SIMPSON, Stamford.

**189.—A Mediæval Prayer Book.**—Mr. Henry Littlehales has just issued a reprint of "The Prymer," a prayer book of the laity in the Middle Ages, *circa* 1400. It is taken from a manuscript (G. 24) in St. John's College, Cambridge. Mr. Littlehales has done his work very thoroughly.

**190.—Chatteris Market.**—The following advertisement appeared in the *Stamford Mercury* of April 11, 1834:—

"At a numerous Meeting of the Inhabitants of Chatteris, in the Isle of Ely, held at the George Inn, on Tuesday the 25th day of March, 1834;

"The Report of the Committee appointed at the last Meeting was read, by which it appears that a Market was formerly held at Chatteris, but in consequence of the frequently inundated state of the adjacent Fen Lands, and the bad state of the Roads, was discontinued.

"It was *Resolved*, that in consequence of the improved state of the Fen Country generally, the extent of corn grown in the parish of Chatteris, and its central situation in the midst of a large productive corn district, as also the great quantities of stock of every description brought into and sold from the parish of Chatteris and its vicinity annually, it is desirable, and would

contribute very generally to the advantage of the Neighbourhood, if the ancient Market were renewed and established.

“In pursuance of the foregoing Resolution, we whose names are hereunto subscribed do agree to renew and establish a Market to be held at Chatteris on Friday in every week, for the sale of Corn and Stock of every description, and that we will use our utmost exertions to forward and support the same.

“Resolved, that these Resolutions be advertised in the provincial papers of our own and the adjoining counties.

“And we do hereby give Notice, That we intend to meet for the purpose of holding a Market on Friday the Fourth day of April, to be continued weekly.

ROBERT RUSTON

DANIEL FRYER

J. S. SABERTON

THOMAS BONFIELD

RICHARD RUSTON

JOHN RICHARDSON

FRYER RICHARDSON

WILLIAM SEWARD

JOSEPH SMITH

HENRY SKEELS

WILLIAM CURTIS

FRYER RICHARDSON

RICHARD RUSTON, jun.

ROBERT RUSTON, jun.

CHRIST. BILLUPS

JOHN WELLDON

F. RICHARDSON, jun.

JOHN RUSTON

JOHN ROSS

JAMES SMITH

JOHN NEGUS

HENRY HALL

THOMAS HIX

EDWARD ILETT

JOHN SEARS

ROBERT CLARKE

WILLIAM TRIPLOW

JOHN SEWARD

JOHN ANGOOD

PHILIP CAWTHORNE

JOHN CAWTHORNE

WILLIAM SKEELS

“Signed by upwards of fifty other of the Inhabitants of Chatteris.”

**191.—Curious Occurrence at Wisbech in 1834.**—The *Lincolnshire Chronicle* of October 10, 1834, contains the following:—

“A melancholy accident occurred on our river last Saturday. As one of the numerous fishing smacks which are constantly passing between this port and the sea, was hurrying up the river with the tide, its mast came in contact with the bridge, and as the water was very high and running at a rapid rate, the vessel

was immediately swamped, and its cargo and three persons which were in it were left floating on the water. One of them, an old man nearly seventy, was rescued, after being carried some way down the stream, and another by strong swimming soon made to the shore; but the third, a boy about thirteen years of age, went down, and has not yet been found. The smack is a complete wreck by the accident, and thus the poor men, in addition to the loss of the boy, have completely lost the means of livelihood. The great height to which these tides run, (nearly twenty feet), renders it extremely dangerous, as the above fact proves, to approach the bridge with the mast or rigging up."

**192.—Turf Houses.**—(No. 170, Part VIII.)—In reply to your correspondent, "T. A. G.," who asks for the meaning of the term "turf" houses, I think I can throw a little light on the subject. I have resided at Stilton for more than half a century, and I remember many fairs at Yaxley. At those fairs it was customary for some householders to hang out a square of dried turf, and this sign was sufficient to constitute the house during the time of the fair a licensed house. As far as my recollection serves me, no other license was required, and the exhibition of the turf prevented any legal consequences occurring to the householder for selling without the ordinary certificate. In many parts of Northamptonshire it was customary at fair times for householders wishing to convert their houses into temporary inns to exhibit a bush or bough of a tree. These were called bough houses. This was the common practice at Oundle, King's Cliffe, Fotheringhay, and no doubt in many other places. Possibly this custom gave rise to the adage "Good wine needs no bush," that is, needs no advertisement.

A. W.

**193.—Hunts. and Cambs. and the Spanish Armada.**—A very interesting and valuable "List of the names of those persons who subscribed towards the Defence of this Country at the time of the Spanish Armada, 1588, and the amounts each contributed," forms a scarce quarto tract of 1798, issued by Leigh and Sotheby, York Street, Covent Garden. The original manuscript cannot be

found ; the author or editor of it is unknown. A second edition, with an admirable historical introduction taken from the State papers, Dom. Ser. of the period in H.M. Public Record Office, was published by my learned friend, the late Mr. J. C. Noble, of Dalston, London, in 1886. From the work of the latter I have appended the Cambs. and Hunts. contributors to the National Defence. The figures represent pounds.

## CANTABRIGIA.

<i>Feb.</i>	Edward Barnes, Gen. 24 <i>Februarii</i>	...	...	25
	John Cropley, <i>eodem</i>	...	...	25
	Henrie Seaman, <i>eodem</i>	...	...	25
	John Gravye, Sen., of Fordham, <i>eodem</i>	...	...	25
	John Pratt, of Woodditton, <i>eodem</i>	...	...	25
	John Folkes, of Swafham Bulbeck, <i>eodem</i>	...	...	25
	Ednund Bacchus, of Swafham Prior, <i>eodem</i>	...	...	25
	Thomas Smithe, of Stowe, <i>eodem</i>	...	...	25
	Edward Styward, Arniger, of Feversham, <i>eodem</i>			50
	George Foster, Gen., of Bottesham, 24 <i>Februarii</i>			25
	Edward Wood, Gen., of Fulborne, <i>eodem</i>	...	...	25
	Thomas Hancock, Sen., of Fulborne, <i>eodem</i>	...	...	25
	Richard Hasill, of Balshaw (Balsham). <i>eodem</i>	...	...	25
	Gilbert Wise, of Hinton, <i>eodem</i>	...	...	25
	Thomas Burie, of Horsheath, <i>eodem</i>	...	...	25
	Richard Davie, of Sawston, <i>eodem</i>	...	...	25
	Robert Swan, of Ieleton	...	...	25
	William Tharbie, Sen., of Witlesford, <i>eodem</i>	...	...	25
	Thomas Hodilowe, of Cambridg, <i>eodem</i>	...	...	25
	John Batisford, Gen., of Chesterton, <i>eodem</i>	...	...	50
	William Carrowe, of Chesterton, <i>eodem</i>	...	...	25
	John Martin, Gen., of Barton, <i>eodem die</i>	...	...	100
	John Chaplin, of Trumpington, <i>eodem</i>	...	...	25
	Katheryn Whale, Vidua, of Thriplowe, <i>eodem</i>	...	...	25
	John Taylor, of Thriplowe, <i>eodem</i>	...	...	25
	Edward Aldred, of Fulmeare, <i>eodem</i>	...	...	25
	Walter Pilgryme, of Windie, <i>eodem</i>	...	...	25
	Thomas Cropwell, of Bourne, <i>eodem</i>	...	...	25

<i>Feb.</i>	Seth Warde, of Abington juxta Shingey, <i>eodem</i>	25
	Thomas Lilley, of Gilden Morden, <i>eodem</i> ...	25
	Nicholas Johnson, alias Butler, of Orwell, <i>eodem</i>	25
<i>April</i>	Robert Pratt, of Malreath, <i>15 Aprilis</i> ...	25
	Walter Hitch, of Melbourne, <i>eodem</i> ...	25
	Barbara Snell, Vidua, of Royston, <i>eodem</i> ...	25
	Thomas Peck, of Eversden, <i>eodem</i> ...	25
	John Marshall, of Eltisley, <i>eodem</i> ...	25
	Adam Thurgood, of Eltisley ...	25
	John Bolnest, of Litlington, <i>eodem</i> ...	25
	Thomas Holliwell, of Weavlingham, <i>eodem</i> ...	25
	Henrie Graype, of Weavlingham, <i>eodem</i> ...	25
	William Gery, Gen., of Over, <i>eodem die...</i> ...	25
	William Iley, of Over, <i>eodem</i> ...	25
	William Steven, of Over, <i>eodem</i> ...	25
	Johan Maldric, Vidua, of Papworth Agnis, <i>eodem</i>	25
	William Peck, of Hardwick, <i>eodem die</i> ...	25
	John Steukyn, of Longstanton, <i>eodem die</i> ...	25
<i>Maye</i>	Richard Richardes, of Mylton, <i>29 die Maii</i> ...	25
	William Agnes, of Landbeach, <i>eodem</i> ...	25
	Robert Peach, of Fendrayton, <i>eodem</i> ...	25
	John Barton, of Fendrayton, <i>eodem</i> ...	25
	William March, Gen., of Ely, <i>eodem</i> ...	25
	Daniell Goodrick, Gen., of Ely, <i>eodem</i> ...	25
	John Martyn, of Ely, <i>eodem</i> ...	25
	John Dane, Jun., of Elie, <i>eodem...</i> ...	25
	William Crauford, of Elie, <i>eodem</i> ...	25
	Edward Marche, of Ely, <i>eodem</i> ...	25
	Thomas Wade, of Litleport, <i>eodem</i> ...	25
	John Kirkes, of Hadenham, <i>eodem</i> ...	25
	John Bernard, of Hadenham, <i>eodem</i> ...	25
	John Thurgood, Sen., of Wicham, <i>eodem</i> ...	25
	Edward Homerston, of Coveney, <i>eodem</i> ...	25
	John Reade, Sen., of Chatteris, <i>eodem</i> ...	25
	William Sturmyn, of Wisbitch, <i>29 Maii</i> ...	25
	William Skootred, of Wisbitch, <i>eodem</i> ...	25



<i>Maye</i>	Thomas Phage, of Marche, <i>29 Maii</i> ... ..	25
	Robert Girdeon, of Wisbitch, <i>eodem</i> ... ..	25
<i>Junii</i>	Edmunde Laverocke, of Upwell, <i>20 die Junii</i> ... ..	25
	James Sallibancke, of Wisbitche, <i>eodem</i> ... ..	25
	Robert Lyne, of Wisbitch, <i>eodem</i> ... ..	25
	Robert Cowper, of Wisbitch, <i>eodem</i> ... ..	25
	Arthur Dalton, of Wisbitch, <i>eodem</i> ... ..	25
	Thomas Jones, of Leverington ... ..	25
	Symon Treane, of Newton, <i>eodem</i> ... ..	25
	John Bonde, of Persondrove, <i>eodem</i> ... ..	25

## HUNTINGDON.

In the list for this county the scribe was not so particular as he was in many others by recording the donors' places of residence. In order, in some measure to supply this deficiency, I have referred to the Herald's Visitation of 1613 of this county, taken by Nicholas Charles, Lancaster Herald, deputy for William Camden, Clarenceux King of Arms.

<i>Aprill</i>	Thomas Cordall, <i>quinto die Aprilis</i> ... ..	25
	Thomas Daniell, <i>sexto die Aprilis</i> ... ..	25
*	John Bedells, Gen., <i>septima die Aprilis</i> ... ..	50
	William Sarvington, Gen. <i>eodem</i> ... ..	25
	Thomas Saulter, <i>8 die Aprilis</i> ... ..	...
	Thomas Marsh, Gen., <i>eodem</i> ... ..	25
	John Pedley, <i>eodem</i> ... ..	25
	Richard Godfrey, <i>9 die Aprilis</i> ... ..	25
†	Johan Calton, Vidua, <i>eodem</i> ... ..	25

\* J. B., a Knt. in 1613, eldest son and heir of Silvester B., of Hamerton, and his first wife Margaret, eldest dau. of Willm. Highfield, of co. Chester. John, their son, also of Hamerton, mar. Matilda, one of the daus. and co-hs. of William Lane, of Cottesbrook, co. Northamps. Arms: Quarterly 1 & 4 Gu., a chev. engr. ar. between 3 (2.1) escallaps of the second Bedell. 2 ar. 3 wolves heads erased (Wolleston) 3 parted per pale gu & az 3 crosses counterch. (Lave).

† Johan C., vid (vu 1613) was the wid. of Nicholas C. of Nedingworth, and dau. of Silvester Bedell, of Hamerton, and had 4 sons, of whom Francis the eldest was a Knt., temp visit, and one dau. Arms: Quarterly 1 & 4 az. a lion ramp. regardant sable, in each quarter an ermine spot. ar. crowned or, Calton, 2 & 3 a cross en gr.

<i>April</i> *	William Bedells, Gen., <i>eodem</i>	...	...	...	25
	† Thomas Auder, Gen., <i>12 die Aprilis</i>	...	...	...	25
	‡ Henrie Newman, <i>eodem</i>	...	...	...	25
	Robert Gylate, <i>eodem</i>	...	...	...	25
	Kenelm Kent, <i>18 die Aprilis</i>	...	...	...	25
	Richard Draper, <i>eodem die</i>	...	...	...	25
	John Palmer, <i>29 die Aprilis</i>	...	...	...	25
<i>Maye</i>	Thomas Haell, <i>primo die Maii</i>	...	...	...	25
	William Cony, Armiger <i>eodem</i>	...	...	...	25
	Michaell Beale, <i>secundo die Maii...</i>	...	...	...	25
	Anthonie Warde, <i>septimo die Maii</i>	...	...	...	25
	Owen Biggs, <i>16 die Maii...</i>	...	...	...	25
	John Cranwell, <i>the 18 Maii</i>	...	...	...	25

JUSTIN SIMPSON, Stamford.

194.—**Monumental Inscriptions in St. Margaret's Church, Lynn, No. 5.**—(No. 155, Part VII).—The following are two inscriptions I copied from recently erected memorials in St. Margaret's Church, Lynn, as supplementary to the inscriptions already published :—

To the . glory . of God . and . in . memory . of . Rachel Elizabeth Cresswell Born March .25 .1803 Died Dec. 4.1888. [Black letter in stained glass window in S. Aisle].

To the GLORY of GOD .and .in loving Memory of MARY BALDING Spinster, this window is dedicated by her sister Emma Jane Balding .A.D. 1888. [Black letter, brass plate under stained glass window in S. Aisle, east of last].

R. H. EDLESTON, Gainford Vicarage, Darlington.

\* Probably brother to John B., of Hamerton, Knt., seated at Moldesworth (2nd son of Silvester and Margaret), Hunts., who espoused Brigida, da. of . . . Power of co. Northampton.

† Perhaps a mistake of the scribe for Audley, a family to whom, in the person of Henry A., esq., (of co. Beds.) Hen. 8 in the 29th year of his reign granted the manor of Great Gransden. Robert A., gr. grandson of the grantor was seated here in 1613, m. Catherine, da. of Willm. plommer, of Radwell, Herts., and had 4 sons 3 daus. temp visit.

‡ Of Folkesworth,

195.—**The Story of Bricstan of Chatteris.**—(No. 184, Part VIII).—There, heavily ironed with chains of unusual weight, in a most cruel and outrageous manner, he suffered for some time the horrors of cold and hunger. In this extremity of distress he implored divine assistance according to the best of his ability, inspired by his urgent necessity. But as he felt that his own merits were but very small, or, to speak the truth, of no account whatever, having no confidence in them, he incessantly invoked, with sorrowful heart and such words as he could command, St. Benedict, to whose rule, as we have seen before, he had unfeignedly proposed to devote himself, and the holy virgin, St. Etheldrida, in whose monastery he intended to make his profession. In this dark dungeon, loaded with chains, tortured with cold, and wasted with hunger, he wore out five wretched months, and would rather, in my opinion, have chosen to die at once, than live thus miserably. But, still seeing no hopes of human help, he continued to call on SS. Benedict and Etheldrida, with sighs and groans and tears, and with heart and mouth. To proceed; one night when the bells in the city were ringing for lauds, and Bricstan, in his dungeon, besides his other sufferings, had received no food for three days, so that he was quite exhausted, and entirely despaired of his recovery, he repeated the names of the saints with a sorrowful voice. Then at last the clement and merciful God, the never-failing fountain of all goodness, who never despises those who are in adversity, and chooses none for their wealth or power, at last vouchsafed to show His loving-kindness to the supplicant. It had been long indeed implored, but it was deferred, that the earnestness of his supplications might be more intense, and the mercy shown be more ardently loved. For now St. Benedict and St. Etheldrida, with her sister Sexburga\* stood before the sorrowful prisoner. The light which preceded their appearance was so extraordinary that he screened his eyes with his hands; and when the saints were seen surrounded by it,

\* Sexburga, eldest sister of Etheldrida, was married to Ercombert, King of Kent. She founded a monastery in the Isle of Sheppy, and afterwards succeeded her sister as Abbess of Ely.

Etheldrida spoke first : 'Bricstan,' she said, 'why do you so often pour out your griefs before us? What do you implore us, with such earnest prayers to grant?' But he, spent with fasting, and being now thrown into a sort of trance by excessive joy and the supernatural visitation, could say nothing in reply. Then the holy virgin said : 'I am Etheldrida whom you have so often invoked, and this is St. Benedict under whose rule you devoted yourself to the service of God, and whose aid you have continually implored. Do you wish to be set free?' On hearing this his spirit revived, and, waking as it were from a dream, he said, 'My lady, if life can by any means be granted me, I should wish to escape from this horrible dungeon, but I find myself so worn out by sufferings of every description, that my bodily powers are exhausted, and I have no longer any hope of obtaining my liberty.' Then the holy virgin turning to St. Benedict, said : 'Holy Benedict, why do you hesitate to do what the Lord has commanded you?' At this, the venerable Benedict laid his hand on the fetters, and they fell in pieces, so that the prisoner's feet were released without his being sensible of any act, the saint appearing to have shattered his chains by his word alone. Having detached them, he threw them indignantly against the beam which supported the floor of the prison, making a great opening, and waking the guards, who lay in the gallery in great alarm at the crash which took place. They supposed that the prisoners had made their escape, and lighting torches, hastened to the dungeon, and finding the doors fast closed, they opened them with the keys and went in. Upon seeing the prisoner they had left in fetters freed from his chains, their astonishment increased, and upon their demanding an account of the noise they had heard, and who had caused it, and how his fetters were struck off, Bricstan said nothing, but a fellow prisoner replied : 'Some persons, I know not who, entered the prison with a great light, and talked with this man my companion, but what they said or did I know not ; ask him who knows best.' Then the guards turning to Bricstan, said : 'Tell us what you saw and heard.' He replied : 'St. Benedict, with St. Etheldrida and her sister Sexburga, appeared to me and struck the fetters off

my feet ; if you will not believe me, at least believe the evidence of your own eyes.' As they did not doubt the miracle they saw, the gaolers sent in the morning to Queen Matilda, who happened to be in the city at the time, to tell her of it. The Queen sent Ralph Basset to the prison, the same who had before doomed Bricstan, who said that magical art was now employed. Ralph entering the dungeon, addressed the prisoner derisively, as he had done on the former occasion : 'What has happened Bricstan? Has God spoken to you by his angels? Has he visited you in your prison? Tell me what witchcraft you have been practising?' But Bricstan made no more reply than if he had been dead.

"Then Ralph Basset, perceiving that his fetters were broken, and hearing from his fellow prisoners of the three persons who had entered the dungeon surrounded by light, the words they had spoken, and the crash they had made, and perceiving the hand of God in these events, began to weep bitterly, and turning to Bricstan, he said : 'My brother, I am a servant of St. Benedict and the holy virgin Etheldrida ; for the love of them speak to me.' He replied : 'If you are a servant of those saints, you are welcome. Be assured that what you see and hear about me is the truth and not the effect of magic.' Ralph, then taking charge of the prisoner, conducted him with tears of joy into the presence of the Queen, where many nobles were present. Meanwhile, the report flew swifter than a bird throughout London, and coming to the ears of almost all the citizens, they raised shouts to heaven, and people of both sexes and every age praised together the name of the Lord, and flocked to the court where it was reported Bricstan was taken, some shedding tears of joy, and others wondering at what they saw and heard. The Queen rejoicing in so great a miracle (for she was a good christian), ordered the bells to be rung in all the monasteries throughout the city, and thanksgivings to be offered by the convents belonging to every ecclesiastical order. Bricstan went to many of the churches to return thanks to God in the fulness of his joy for his liberation, great crowds preceding and following him through the suburbs, and everyone being anxious to see him, as if he were some new

man. When he reached the church of St. Peter, called in English Westminster, Gilbert, the abbot of that place, a man of great eminence in sacred and profane literature, came forth to meet him outside the abbey in a procession formed of the whole body of monks, with all the pomp of the church ; for he said : 'if the relics of a dead man are to be received with ceremony in a church, we have much more reason for giving an honourable reception to living relics, namely, such a man as this ; for as to the dead, we who are still in this mortal life are uncertain where their spirits are, but for this man, we cannot be ignorant that he has been visited and delivered by God before our eyes, because he has not acted unjustly.'

"When thanksgiving had been offered to God, to the best of their ability, according to what in their estimation was due for Bricstan's deliverance, the Queen sent him with great honour to the abbey of St. Etheldrida in the Isle of Ely. I went myself, attended by the whole convent of monks, to meet him, with candles and crosses chanting *Te dum Laudamus*. Having conducted him into the church with befitting ceremony, and offered thanksgivings to God, we delivered to him, in honour of blessed Benedict his liberator, the monastic habit he had so long desired. We also hung up in the church in view of the people, the fetters with which he was bound, that they might be a memorial of this great miracle, to the honour of St. Benedict who broke them, and of St. Etheldrida, who was his colleague and assistant ; and they long continued to be suspended there, to keep alive the remembrance of these events.

"I have been desirous of making known to the sons of holy church these acts of the venerable Father Benedict, not because he had not performed greater wonders, but because they are more recent, and such miracles appear in our days to be infrequent in England. Nor, as regards our blessed Father Benedict, let any one be surprised that he wrought great and inconceivable wonders ; for, according to Pope Gregory, he may be equalled to Moses for having brought water out of the rock ; to Elijah, for receiving the ministry of a raven ; to Elisha, for raising iron from the

bottom of a pit ; and to Peter, for having caused a disciple to walk on the water at his command. St. Benedict likewise, as is well known, shewed himself to be a prophet by predicting events to come, and an apostle by the miracles he wrought ; and to sum up all in a few words, he was full of the spirit of all the just. Since, therefore, we know with certainty that he obtained from the Lord all that he desired, let us continue joyfully in his service, knowing that through his intercession we shall not lose our reward ; and if St. Benedict did not refuse his aid to one who had engaged to become a monk, what must be the protection he will afford to those who are actually bound by their voluntary engagements to the rules of his discipline ? It is clearly manifested by many evident tokens that our kind patron, who is now glorified by God in heaven, unceasingly intercedes for his suppliant disciples, and daily renders them effective aid in their necessities. We then, who have submitted to the light yoke of Christ, and labouring in his vineyard, bear the burden of the day with constancy and perseverance, may, through the divine goodness, be assured that Almighty God will save and protect us for the merits and prayers of our wonder-working master. Let us, therefore, earnestly supplicate the Creator of the universe that he will bring us out of Babylon, and the land of the Chaldeans, and conduct us to Jerusalem by the observance of his laws, and that He who is the Almighty and merciful God will give us a place in the company of the citizens above, to praise Him who liveth and reigneth for all ages. Amen."

**196.—Will o' the Wisps.**—These phenomena were witnessed, I understand, at Lolham Mills, near Deeping, soon after the disappearance of the severe frost of the past winter. I understand that old residents in various parts of the Fens state that Will o' the Wisps were very commonly seen in their younger days, but have gradually ceased to be observed. Is this due to the improved drainage of the fenland ?

F. G. A., Spalding.

**197.—Whipping Posts and Stocks.**—Are there any remains of whipping posts or stocks still preserved in Fenland parishes ?

E. D.

198.—**The Paston Letters.**—In the Paston Letters I do not find many references to places in the Fenland; but this one, written at Lynn, and of historic interest, may be worthy of a place in the *Notes and Queries*. (From Fenn's Paston Letters, XXVIII, vol iv., p. 101.)

*“To my right worshipful father, John Paston.*

“Please you to weete that I am at Lynn, and understand by divers persons, as I am informed, that the master of Carbrooke\* would take a rule in the Mary Talbot as for captain, and to give jackets of livery to divers persons which he waged by other men, and not by him, being in the said ship; wherefore insomuch as I have but few soldiers in mine livery here, to strengthen me in that which is the king's commandment, I keep with me your two men Dawbeny and Calle, which I suppose shall sail with me to Yarmouth, for I have purveyed harness for them, and ye shall well understand by the grace of God that the said master of Carbrooke\* shall have none rule in the ships, as I had proposed he should have had, because of his business†; and for this is one of the special causes I keep your said men with me, beseeching you ye take it to none displeasure with me, notwithstanding their herden‡ at Wygenhall shall be done this day, by the grace of God, who have you in his keeping.

“Written at Lynn, the morrow after my departure from you.

“Item, as for such tidings as be here Th. shall inform you.

(Written between 1461 and 1466, JOHN PASTON.”

1 and 6, E. IV.)

\* Carbrooke is in Norfolk, about midway between Castle Acre and Lynn. There was a society of Knight Templars at that place, and it would be interesting to know if there is any local trace of them now. The master of Carbrooke would mean the head of this society, who (†) was a busy-body and not fitted to act as subordinate under John Paston.

‡ The word herden appears to have been derived from Anglo-Saxon *Hyrdan*, to guard, keep, or to muster, &c. The cognate noun was *heord*, a flock; but also custody. *Herd*, (according to Horne Tooke in “Diversions of Purley”) is the past participle of



*hyrdan*, and is applied both to that which is guarded or kept, and to him by whom it is guarded or kept. "We use it both for *grez* and pastor."

John Paston, the writer of the letter, was brought up in the family of the Duke of Norfolk; was a soldier, and engaged in French wars; became heir to his brother in 1479; High Sheriff of Norfolk in 1485; was made a Knight bannaret at the battle of Stoke in 1487 by Henry VII.; and died in 1503.

S. H. MILLER, Lowestoft.

199.—Fen Pumps, No. 4.—(No. 175, Part VIII.)—I am now able to give some further information as to the use of mills in the Fens at an earlier period than has hitherto been believed. Mr. Richard Atkins, of Outwell, whose observations on the state of the Fens were commended by Dugdale, made a complete survey of the country in 1604, and he wrote a tract on the subject which he called *Relateo de Mariscis*. I do not know whether this was ever published, or whether any complete copy is now in existence. Badeslade in his History of the Navigation of the Port of Lynn [pub. 1766] quoted largely from a manuscript copy. The Wisbech Court of Sewers has in its possession a manuscript volume written early in the 17th century, and one of the latest documents contained in it is an imperfect copy of Atkins' celebrated report. In it he says:—

"Over hath very good fens 2 miles broad and above a mile long  
"very meddowes wthin y<sup>e</sup> compasse whereof lye certen grounds of  
"Sir William Hindes where there is an Ingin or mill placed to  
"cast water and not far from thence another mill for y<sup>e</sup> towne—  
"both serve to good purpose and empty y<sup>e</sup> water into a ditch  
"which falleth into Willingham mere."

In answer to some criticisms in local newspapers, allow me to point out that I never asserted that the Engines of which I spoke were *wind mills*. I called in question the statement that "water mills . . . ." were first erected in the Levels in the early part of the 18th century, or the latter part of the 17th."

WILLIAM C. LITTLE.

200.—**Market and Fair at Whittlesey.**—Lysons in his Historical account of Cambridgeshire [Magna Britannia 1808] makes the following statement :—

“Whittlesea had formerly a market which had not been wholly “disused until within the last twenty years ; the market day was “Friday. *We have not been able to find any grant of it on record ;* “there is a fair for horses on the 13th of June.”

The Royal Commission on Market Rights has recently published a Calendar of Grants of Markets and Fairs enrolled on the Patent Rolls since 1700 A.D. The following extract from this Calendar (Vol XI., p. 143) sets the point of the date of the grant at rest :—

APPLICATIONS FOR GRANTS.					GRANTS MADE.	
Date.	Place.	County.	Applicant.	Grant Solicited.	Date.	Particulars of Grant.
13 Anne, 27th April.	Whittlesey, Isle of Ely.	Cambridge.	George Downes.	M. each week on Friday, for corn, flesh, fish, and other provisions and merchandises. Three F. annually, (1) on 11th June for three days, (2) on 25th October for three days, (3) on 25th January for three days, (if any day a Sunday, then on Monday following), for goods and merchandises, with court of pie-powder, with tolls and profits.	1 Geo. I., 11th Feb.	Grant to George Downes and his heirs of M. each week on Friday, in Whittlesey, Cambridge, and of three F. annually there, (1) on 11th June, to continue for three days, (2) on 25th October for three days, and (3) on 25th January for three days.

It might naturally be supposed that George Downes, to whom the grant was made, was Lord of the Manors of Whittlesey at the time of the grant [1716 A.D.], but he was really the Steward. The Manors at that time belonged to Richard Price, Esq., and Nathaniel Webb, Gentleman. It would seem probable that Downes was a Lessee or Farmer of the Manor. W. C. L.

201.—**Leeds Family.**—Can any one oblige by giving births of Thomas Leeds, 1620, Daniel Leeds, 1652 ; supposed members of a Leeds family bearing arms “Armt. a Fesse 3 eagles displayed sable” Yorks., Lincoln, Suffolk, Sussex, Cambs., Hants.

C. HERCY, 41, Great Russell Street, London

202.—**Ely at the end of the 17th Century.**—In a work recently published, "Through England on a side-saddle in the time of William and Mary," being the diary of Celia Fiennes, the following references to Ely occur:—

"From thence [Newmarket] I went eight miles to Ely, which were as long as the 12 I came from St. Edmondsbery, ye wayes being very deep; its mostly Lanes and Low moorish ground on Each Side deffended by ye ffendiks which are deep ditches with draines. Ye ffenns are full of water and mudd these also Encompass their grounds. Each mans part 10 or a dozen acres a piece or more, so these dieks are the fences. On each side they plant willows so there is two rows of trees runs round ye ground which Looks very finely to see a flatt of many miles so planted but it must be ill to live there. All this while Ely minister is in our view at a mile distant you would think but go, its a long four mile. A mile distant from ye town is a Little Hamlet from which I descended from a steep hill and so Cross a bridge over water which Enters into ye island of Ely, and so you pass a flatt on a Gravel causey which way ye Bishop is at ye Charge to repaire, Else there would be no passing in ye summer. This is secured by some dikes which surround more grounds as ye former fulls of Rows of trees and willows round them, which makes Ely looke finely through those trees, and yet stands very high. In the winter this Caussey is overflowed, and they have no way but boats to pass in. They Cut peate out of some of these grounds. The raines now had fallen so as in some places near ye Citty ye Caussey was Covered and a Remarkable deliverance I had for my horse Earnest to drinke, ran to get more depth of water than ye Caussey had, was on the brinke of one of these dikes, but by a speciall providence which I desire never to forget, and allways to be thankful for, Escaped. Yet bridge was over the River Linn, which comes from Norfolk, and does almost Encompass the island of Ely, which is 20 mile in bigness, in which are severall little towns as Wisbech, and many others. There is another River that joyns with ye Linn which Compasses this land into an island. At this bridge is a gate, but

by reason of ye great raines ye roades were full of water, even quite to ye town which you ascend a very steep hill into, but ye dirtiest place I ever saw, nott a bitt of pitching in ye streetes, so its a perfect quagmire the whole Citty, only just about ye Palace and Churches the streetes are well enough for breadth, but for want of pitching it seemes only a harbour to breed and nest vermine in of which there is plenty Enough, so that tho' my Chamber was near 20 Stepps up I had frogs and slow worms and snailes in my Roome, but suppose it was brought up with ye faggots. But it Cannot but be infested with all such things, being altogether moorish flenny ground which Lyes Low ; it is true were the Least Care taken to pitch their streets they would make it Looke more properly an habitation for human beings, and not a cage or nest of unclean Creatures. It must needs be very unhealthy tho' ye natives say much to the Contrary, which proceeds from custom and use, otherwise to persons born in up and dry Countryses it must destroy them Like Rotten sheep in Consumptions and Rhums.

“The Bishop does not care to stay long in this place, not being good for his health ; he is the Lord of all the island, has the command and ye jurisdiction. They have lost their Charter, and so are no Corporation, but all things are directed by the Bishop, and it is a shame he does not see it better ordered, and ye buildings and streets put in a better condition. They are a slothful people. and for little, but ye takeing care of their Grounds and Cattle, which is a vast advantage. Where the yeares prove drye they gain so much that in case 6 or 7 wet yeares drown them all over, the one good yeare sufficiently repaires their loss. There is a good palace for the Bishop built, but it was unfurnished. There are two Churches. Ely Minster is a curious pile of building all of stone, the outside full of Carvings and great arches, and fine pillars in the front, and the inside has the greatest variety and neatness in the works. There are two Chappels, most exactly carv'd in stone, all sorts of figures, Cherubims Gilt, and painted in some parts. Ye Roofe of one Chappell was One Entire stone most delicately Carv'd and hung down in great poynts all about

ye Church. The pillars are Carv'd and painted with ye history of the bible, especially the new testament and description of Christ's miracles. The Lanthorn in ye quire are vastly high and delicately painted, and fine Carv'd work all of wood. In it ye bells used to be hung (five); the demention of ye biggest was so much that when they rung them it shooke ye quire so, and ye Carv'd worke, that it was thought unsafe, therefore they were taken down. There is one Chappel for Confession, with a Roome and Chaire of State for ye priest to set to hear ye people on their knees Confess into his Eare through a hole in the wall. This Church has ye most popish remaines of any I have seen. There still remains a Cross over the alter; the Candlesticks are 3 quarters of a yard high, massy silver gilt, very heavy. The ffont is One Entire piece of White Marble, stemm and foote; the Cover was Carv'd Wood, with ye image of Christ's being baptized by John, and the holy Dove descending on him, all finely Carv'd white wood, without any paint or varnish.

"When I was upon the tower I could see Cambridg and a great prospect of ye Country, which by reason of ye great raines just before under water, all the ffenny ground being all on a flatt, unless it be one side of the town, which is all the high dry grounds, into which they drive up their Cattle to secure them in the wet seasons."

203.—**The Bells of Tydd St. Giles.**—The old bells of this church were taken down from the tower and sent away to Messrs. Mears and Stainbanks' Bell Foundry, in London, on December 20th, 1889, to be recast. The weight of the old peal was 33 cwt., the tenor weighing just under 10 cwt. The inscriptions on the five old bells were as follows:—1st.—Treble, Sigismund Trafford, of Dunton Hall, Tidd St. Maries, 1710. 2nd, Henry Penn, Fusore. *Omnia fiant ad gloriam Dei* (Let all things be done to the glory of God) 1627 Abill Hodges, Rector. 'Tobie Morris cast me. 3rd.—*Non clamor sed amor cantat in aure Dei* (not noise but love sings in the ear of God). 'Tobie Morris cast me. 1627. B.C.A. W.F. 4th.—*Cælorum Christi pluceat tybe*

*Rez sonus iste* (O Christ King of heaven may that sound please Thee.) Jesus spede us. 1603. Joannes Wilbe generosus et Clement Martyn, Rector 1603. 5th.—James Scribo, Adam Cook, Churchwardens 1725.

**204.—Ramsey Heights or Aits.**—This place-name is indiscriminately spelt and written in the two forms above. Which is right? "Heights" certainly seems a misnomer for one of the flattest parts of the Fenland. B.A.

**205.—Odes on the Fens by Thomas Wells, Esq.**—The following odes were written by Mr. Thomas Wells, of Holme. They are printed on a folio page, but without any date or printer's name. Perhaps some of the readers of *Fenland Notes and Queries* can state if they ever appeared in any periodical and the date they were written. CHARLES DACK.

ODE to the NAIADS of the River HOLME.

By THOMAS WELLS, Esq.

I.

YE ebon Naiads of the inky Flood,  
That sluggishly supplies the lazy Lake,  
Arise in all the Majesty of Mud,  
Rise from your oozy Beds, ye Nymphs awake!  
Dull as the Murmurs of your liquid Slime,  
Hoarse as the spotted Tenants of your Shore<sup>(1)</sup>  
(When rous'd to *Music* by the Punt or Oar)  
To you I tune the slow, somnif'rous Rhyme,  
Senseless as is my Prose, but more sublime,  
The River now that gaily glides,  
And pours its golden Tides.

By HOLME's proud Tow'rs to WHITTLESEY,  
The Peasant erst, in Accents rude,  
Call'd a Fen Ditch, and damn'd the Mud;  
For which I damn'd his Blood.—<sup>(2)</sup>

And now the *River* HOLME flows to the *little Sea*.<sup>(3)</sup>

(<sup>1</sup>) The Frogs. (<sup>2</sup>) An usual Phrase of the Author's, applied to the Person who calls his *River* a Ditch or Dike. (<sup>3</sup>) The Little Mere may fairly be called the Little Sea, when HOLME Ditch is termed HOLME River

To me that River owes its Name ;  
 To me you owe immortal Fame ;  
 Like Alligators form'd of Mire,<sup>(1)</sup>  
 To heav'nly Honours you aspire :  
 Then aid me now—in Gratitude you owe it,  
 I made you Goddesses, make me a Poet.

## II.

Where were ye, Nymphs ? when Rustics bold  
 My fav'rite Trees invaded ?  
 Their prostrate Pride the Flames infold,  
 Their crackling Heads are faded.<sup>(2)</sup>  
 Your sister Dryads rais'd a feeble Cry,  
 At HOLME's proud Pile their piteous Pangs we learn ;  
 The House-maid, Cook-maid, Kitchen-maid, and I,  
 From HOLME's proud Pile a feeble Cry return.  
 Me they suspended on the *fatal Tree*,  
 With serious, sad Solemnity ;<sup>(3)</sup>  
 (Would I could tie them to the Stocks and lash 'em)  
 Bleach'd by the Winds, I hung on high,  
 The Earth below, above the Sky ;  
 Like his my Air, my Habit too,  
 My *Jacket* trim, and *Trousers* Blue,<sup>(4)</sup>  
 The Traveller looked up, and thought me Mr. *Matchem*.<sup>(5)</sup>

## III.

Yet still the Empire of the *Sea* is mine,<sup>(6)</sup>  
 My Streamers wave as frolic, gay, and pretty,

(1) The Ægyptians supposed that the Alligators, whom they considered as Divinities, sprung from the Mud of the NILE. (2) The Trees of an Avenue planted by the Author, were lately cut down by the Country-People, and burnt. (3) The Author threatened to treat a Country-Fellow in this Manner for not pulling off his Hat to him, and actually ordered the Constable to proceed and inflict the Punishment.—The Constable was however wiser than the Captain. (4) The Author was lately hung in Effigy in this Dress, it being reported that he had *once been at Sea*. (5) A Sailor who hangs in Chains, in the same Uniform, a few Miles from the Place of the Author's Execution, for the Murder of a Drummer. (6) The Author has lately rais'd two *private Conveniences*, the one before the Windows of his House at HOLME; the other in the same position as to a *Pleasure-House*, which he claims, by the Side of WHITTLESEA Mere.

As those that deck the Hats of Misses fine,  
 In *Huntingdon* fair Town, or *Peterborough* City.  
 Whilst thro' the foggy Fen,  
 Your sable River flowing,  
 Theme of the Poet's Pen,  
 And wide enough for Rowing,  
 Delights Nose, Eye, and *Taste*—which most I study,  
 With Eels both fat and large, altho' a little muddy ;  
 To you ye Nymphs the hallowed Shrine I've rais'd,  
 Close to my festive Hall,  
 And lo ! with equal Honours prais'd,  
 Another fragrant Nymph attends my Call ;  
 Famed CLOACINA, with the yellow Hair,  
 By *you* assumes her *Seat*,  
 And each returning Morn with Incense sweet,  
 And Off'rings due, your Votary shall appear.

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A PINDARIC ODE to CLOACINA.

By THOMAS WELLS, *Esq.*

BRIGHT CLOACINA, I this lay  
 Inscribe to Thee,  
 My fav'rite Deity ;  
 What other Tribute can thy Votary pay ?  
 Already sacred to thy Name I've rais'd  
 Two splendid Temples ; one conspicuous stands  
 Upon the Margin of fair WHITTLESEA ;  
 The Tempest-beaten Sailor oft has gaz'd  
 On the high Pile, and to remotest Lands  
 His Course directed with security.  
 From the rich Fane the passing Gales convey  
 A gratefull Smell across the wat'ry Way ;  
 Not half so ravishing the Wind  
 That scatters Fragrance o'er the Seas of *Ind.*



Before my Mansion's Windows full in Sight  
 The other Structure's built ; for with Delight  
 Mine Eye can ever dwell on ought that's Thine ;  
 Here perfect Taste unites with great Design :  
 Aspiring to the Clouds its ample Dome  
 Compleats with awful Pomp, the tow'ry Pride of **HOLME**.  
 In this I ev'ry Day  
 With fervant Zeal and humble Rev'rence pray,  
     And costly Off'rings leave behind.  
 Nor do I superstitiously confine  
 My Prayers, O Goddess, to thy hallow'd Shrine,  
     When sudden Terrors agitate my Mind ;  
 Wherever I may chance to be,  
 Or trav'ling cross the Land, or tumbling on the Sea,  
 I constantly prefer my Vows to Thee.  
 Full well thou know'st I was not near thine Altar,  
     When the sad melancholy Tidings came  
 That I had been suspended in a Halter ;  
     Yet I to thee alone, illustrious Dame !  
 Of all the Gods, due Rites perform'd: Well pleas'd  
 Thou smild'st benign, and my Distress was eas'd.

**206.—Miller's Toll Dish.**—In a miller's advertisement, in the neighbourhood of Ramsey, the expression occurs, "one shilling per coomb and no toll dish." What is a toll dish?      **B.A.**

**207.—History of Soham, (by the Rev. J. R. Olorenshaw).—**  
 1614—20 Jan. Thomas Muriell, B.D. Proctor of Cambridge  
 1611 ; Archdeacon of Norwich 1621, and Rector of Hilders-  
 ham, where he died. He was buried there Oct. 7, 1629.  
 1629—21 Oct. Thomas Bolde, A.B. Chosen Fellow 29 Sep.,  
 1610 ; A.M. 1615 ; had a testimonial 1619 ; Junior Proctor  
 1624 ; President 1629.  
 1631—14 May. Roger Hechstetter, A.B. Chosen Fellow 13 Jan.,  
 1612 ; M.A. Rhetorical Lecturer 1617 ; had the Fellowship

of Grindall's Foundation 1618, and in that year was Greek Lecturer ; Junior Treasurer and Hebrew Lecturer 1619, and had a testimonial in the same year ; Senior Treasurer and Catechist 1620 ; Philosophy Lecturer 1621 ; Bursar 1623 ; Junior Proctor 1630. "A very loyal and brave man."\* He appears to be identical with the vicar referred to in "Walker's Sufferings of Clergy,"† under the name of "Exeter," of Soham Vicarage (then of the value of £100 a year) as follows : "April 10, 1644. Sequestered by the Earl of Manchester for insufficiency, malignancy, and particularly for not taking the covenant himself ; and what's worse, as it followeth in his charge because not above three or four of his parish had taken it, though it consisted of 300 families." He was buried at Soham, Sept. 1, 1660.

1661—23 Nov. Thomas Wedon, or Weedon, Hertfordshire, A.B. Chosen Fellow 1 Feb., 1631 ; ejected 1644 ; restored 1660.

‡ In 1660 a petition was presented to King Charles II. by the Master and Fellows of Pembroke Hall, for the presentation of Thomas Wedon B.D. Senior Fellow of the College, to the Vicarage of Soham, which is the gift of the college, but some demur arose from a lapse to the crown, because of a misnomer in the presentation, 30 years before, of Roger Hechstetter the last incumbent. § And on the 21st October, 1661, a warrant was granted for his presentation to the vicarage and he appears to have been presented on October 31, 1661. He was buried at Soham, May 23, 1672.

(It would appear that one Robert Grimmer M.A. presented a petition to the king in July 1661 asking for the vicarage of Soham. He was thrown out of his ministry at the beginning of the wars for his constant adherence to the late king Charles I. Drs. Isaac Barrow and Peter Gunning gave a certificate in his favour, speaking of him as "an M.A.

\* Baker's MSS. (Additional 7033, p. 302).

† p. 236., Part II.

‡ Calendars of State Papers, Domestic, (B.M. 2076, Vol xii.)

§ Ditto Vol. xliii.

of 30 years' standing of Jesus College Cambridge," and it is said that he was presented to the living on July 22, 1661.\* (If this was the case he could have held it for a few months only.)

1672—6 Aug. Robert Mapletoft, born at North Thoresby in Lincolnshire 25 Jan. 1609. Educated in Louth School, from thence sent to Queen's College, and removed to Pembroke when A.B. and chosen Fellow 6 Jan. 1631. Chaplain to Bishop Wren 1638. B.D. and ejected 1644. In the rebellion he lived quietly among his friends, particularly at Sir Robert Sharley's in Leicestershire where he became acquainted with Archbishop Sheldon, and had afterwards a private congregation in Lincoln, where he used to officiate according to the liturgy of the Church of England, which had liked to have procured him much trouble, but it being found upon enquiry that his congregation had offered him a considerable sum of money and that he had refused it, he came off safe. Upon the king's restoration he was again possessed of his Fellowship in 1660, and made Sub-dean of Lincoln, and about that time Rector of Claworth, in Nottinghamshire, (which he afterwards exchanged for the vicarage of Soham) and resigned his Fellowship 1661. He was chosen master of Pembroke College 1664 and was also D.D. About that time Archbishop Sheldon invited him to be Chaplain to the Duchess of York, then, as was supposed, inclined to Popery, and in want of a man of Dr. Mapletoft's primitive stamp, to keep her steady to her religion; but he could not be prevailed with to entertain the notion. He lived very hospitably at Ely and wherever he resided, and was esteemed for the many pious and charitable acts he did in his lifetime. Dean of Ely 1667. Vice-Chancellor 1671, and died at Pembroke Hall August 20, 1677, and was buried in a vault in the chapel.

1677—3 Jan. Marmaduke Urlin or Earlwin, of Buckinghamshire, admitted 1654, B.A.; Fellow, October 15th, 1660;

\* Calendars of State Papers, Vol. xxxix.

A.M. 1661; Taxor and Philosophy Lecturer, 1664; Rhetoric Lecturer, 1666; Bursar and Humanity Lecturer, 1667-9; Senior Treasurer, 1670; Dean and Catechist, 1671; Rector of Hardwick. Died 1678.

1679—7 May. Drugonis, or Drue, Cressener, of St. Edmund's Bury, Suffolk. Admitted from Christ's College, 1661; Greek Scholar, A.B., and chosen Fellow 29th August, 1662; Rhetoric Lecturer, 1664-5; Hebrew ditto, 1666; Greek ditto, 1668; Junior Treasurer, 1669; Bursar, 1676; Framlingham Treasurer, 1667. Had leave to study law or physic, July 5, 1671. Presented to Wearisley, 25 April, 1677, which he resigned 14 Jan., 1678, and was then presented to Soham. Junior Proctor, 1678; D.D., 1680; Prebend of Ely. He wrote a Commentary upon the Apocalypse. He died Feb. 20, 1717, aged 79, and was buried Feb. 23, in the easternmost chapel of Soham Church. The inscription on the flat stone is as follows:—Depositum | Drugonis Cressener | S.T.P. | Aulæ Pembrochianæ | Per xv Annos | Socij | Hujus Ecclesiæ | Per xxxix Annos | Vicarij | Ecclesiæ Eliensis | Per xvii Annos | Canonici | Obijt xx Die Mensis | February | A D. MDCCXVII. | Ætatis Sux | LXXIX.

1718—March 25. Reginald Hawkins, of Cornwall, admitted 1684. A.B., 1687; A.M., and chosen Fellow Oct. 28, 1691. Greek Lecturer, 1698; Junior Treasurer, 1699; Hebrew Lecturer, 1701; Rhetoric Lecturer, 1702; Dean and Catechist, 1704-5; Chapel Reader 1705; Framlingham Treasurer, 1706-8; President, 1707; Senior Proctor, 1708. He married April 2, 1722, Mrs. Margaret Dixie of Market Bosworth in the County of Leicester, Baronet. Cole says he built "the elegant and handsome Parsonage house, about the S.W. corner of the churchyard, opposite the tower." This would be what is now the *old* part of the vicarage. He died April 1731 and was buried at Soham, and as Cole says, in the middle of the chancel.

1732 (?)—John Harwood son of Mr. Harwood a draper, of Cambridge, admitted 1705; A.B. 1708; chosen fellow 24 Oct.,

1711 ; A.M. 1712 ; D.D. Died August 9, 1746, and buried in the chancel of Soham Church. The inscription on the stone (under the altar) is as follows : (the Mrs. Cawthorne mentioned is the foundress of "Cawthorne's" charity.) "In memory of the Rev. Dr. Harwood, late fellow of Pembroke Hall, vicar of Soham, who died Agut. ye 9th, 1746 ; Also of Mrs. Elizabeth Cawthorne, widow, sister of the above Dr. Howard, who died 20 Feb., 1782."

1747—John Francis, of Canterbury, chosen Fellow Oct. 29, 1733, died 1782, aged 72, and buried at Soham. There is however nothing to mark the place of burial.

1782—The living was sequestrated, John Francis (probably son of the Vicar) being Sequestrator.

1782—Thomas Wilson, of Yorkshire, chosen Fellow Nov. 3, 1767 ; died 1796. He appears to have been instituted to the living on Nov. 4, 1782 ; and *again* on May 13, 1789.

1797—Henry Cooper, President of Pembroke College in 1788.

1798—Henry Fisher, died 1824, aged 77. Buried at Soham. There is a tablet to his memory on the wall to the east of the north arch in the chancel, bearing the following inscription : "In a vault beneath are deposited the remains of the Rev. Henry Fisher, M.A., late Fellow of Pembroke Hall, for twenty-seven years Vicar of this parish. And an active magistrate for the county of Cambridge. Obiit Dec. 18th, A.D. 1824. *Ætatis suæ* 77.

Also of Ann, relict of the above named Henry Fisher, and daughter of Robert Fox, Esq., of Dunton Hall, Warwickshire. Obiit May 11, 1825 : *Ætatis suæ* 69.

Also of Elizabeth King, widow, another daughter of the above named Robert Fox, Obiit February 9, A.D. 1822. *Ætatis suæ* 70."

The tablet is surmounted with a Coat of Arms, with the motto "Virtus sepulchris expers."

1825—George Haggitt, of Northamptonshire, chosen Fellow Oct. 31, 1793. Buried at Soham. A tablet on the north wall of the chancel, within the rails, has the following :

“Sacred to the memory of the Rev. George Haggitt, Vicar of this parish, who died June 1st, 1832, in the 65th year of his age. In testimony of his zeal to promote scriptural education amongst the poor, he left ten pounds a year for ever to the Vicar of Soham, to be applied to the support of the Sunday School. This tablet was erected to their lamented brother by his affectionate sisters, Anne and Elizabeth Haggitt.”

1832—June. Henry Tasker, M.A., Fellow of Pembroke, Honorary Canon of Ely. The Vicarage was enlarged in 1834, the money being borrowed from Queen Anne's Bounty Fund, and the last instalment re-paid shortly before Mr. Tasker's death. Mr. Thomas Rickman was the architect, and the total cost appears to have been about £3,000 exclusive of interest, the contractors being Messrs Bell and Sons. A protest of a somewhat formal character was made by the College authorities against the proposed enlargement of the house, on the ground of its being likely to prove a burden to future incumbents, and it seems that some alteration was made in the original plan.

The chancel was restored in 1849, at the joint expense of the patrons of the living and the Vicar.

The Girls' National School, in Bull Lane, was built in the year 1857, at a cost of £1650, the money being raised by voluntary subscriptions and grants from societies, Mr Tasker apparently making himself responsible for £465.

The stained glass window at the east end was erected by his relations in 1875, it bears the following inscription at the base: “In memory of Henry Tasker, Honorary Canon of Ely, and 41 years Vicar of this parish, died January 17th, 1874, aged 79 years.”

He was buried in Wilmington Churchyard, the inscription on the stone being: “Henry Tasker, second son of the above John Tasker, Esq., and Sarah Elfield Tasker, Honorary Canon of Ely, and for 41 years Vicar of Soham, Cambridge-shire. Died 17th January, 1874, aged 79 years.”

1874—John Cyprian Rust, M.A.

Henry Cooper and Henry Fisher, (page 301) are one and the same. It seems that this Vicar had some property left him and changed his name from Cooper to Fisher. The signature "Henry Cooper," occurs once in the parish registers, and is in the same handwriting as that of "Henry Fisher."

From the "Survey of Church Lands, 1649,"\* we extract the following :—

"Item, We find that the parish of Soame hath a Vicarage of one hundred pounds per annum, butt noe settled minister. There is a chappell within two (*sic*) myles being used very seldom, butt necessarye to be employed. Wee desire that Mr. Daniell Miles of Katherine Hall, may continue with us still in the place as he hath done. The tythes that belong to the hamlett of Barrowaye doth amount unto sixteen pounds per annum, which is parte (?) of the one hundred pounds above specified."

On page 239 it was stated that Richard Gauston was presented to the living in January 1528. A copy of his will has been met with and there appears to be no doubt but that he succeeded Coren in the living. His name however should be spelt "Richard Gunston." As his will is dated 1545 it is probable he held the living until 1547 when the presentation was claimed by Pembroke College for Nicholas Ridley.

Oliver Cromwell appointed one "John Giles" to the vicarage of Soham in 1655, as is seen by the following, but it is not known how long Giles held possession :—

"Soham, John Giles, rent (?) as aforesaid, by John Claypoole, Robt. Vig. . . . . (?) Robt. Ram of Spalding, Sam. Wilson, Ewd. Dusbenson, of Paston.

Know all men by these presents that the 7th day of March, in yr. 1654, there was exhibited to the Commissioners for approbation of publique preacher a presentation of John Giles, clerke, to ye Vicarage of Soham, in ye county of Cambridge, made to him by

\* Vol. iii., page 275, Lambeth Palace Library.

His Highness Oliver Lord Protector of the Commonwealth of England, and the patron thereof under his seale mannale, together with a testimony in the behalfe of the said John Giles of his holy and good conversation. Upon perusall and due consideration of the premisses and finding him to be a person qualified as in and by the ordinance for such approbation is required, commissioners above mentioned have adjudged and approved the said John Giles to be a fit person to preach the gospell, and have guaranteed him admission and doe admit the said J. Jiles to the vicarage of Soham aforesaid to be full and perfect possessor and incumbent thereof. And doe hereby signify to all persons concerned herein that he is hereby intituled to ye profitts and perquisites and all rights and dues incident and belonging to the said vicarage as fully and effectually as if he had been instituted and inducted according to any such laws and customes as have in this case formerly been made had or used in this Realme. In witsnesse whereof they have caused the common seal to be hereunto affixed and the same to be attached by the hande of the Regr. by His Highness in yt behalfe appointed. Dated at Whitehall the 22nd of May, 1655."\*

Two masters of Pembroke Hall Cambridge are worthy of notice here because of their efforts with reference to the living of Soham.

The first is John Langthon, sixth master of Pembroke. He was fellow in 1412; master 1428; and in that time did many things worthy of a fellow and master. By his favour with king Henry VI., he so far recommended the college to that most pious prince, that he obtained for the college the Rectory and Manor of Soham, the Priory and Rectory of Great Linton with the chapel of S. Margaret of Isleham.

The other is Laurence Booth, eighth master 1450. A great benefactor to the college, particularly in the confirmation of Soham, Linton, and Isleham, which were very near being lost in the 1st of king Edward IV.†

\* Record Books of Commonwealth, MS. 996, fol. 80, Lambeth Palace Library.

† This and much of the information about the Vicars is derived from "Hawes' and Loder's Framlingham."



LIST OF CURATES.

The list is not complete, and the dates (previous to 1850) do not necessarily denote the year of appointment.

1527—Thos. Dobet (?)	1846—Daniel Winham
1552—Matthew Lawson	„ —Alfred Nicholas Bull
1582—John Williamson	1847—G. D. Haughton
1599 } Thomas Walker, M.A.,	„ —Jas. Newsam
to } S. John's College,	1850 }
1620 } Cambridge	to } Jas. Wm. Cockshott, M.A.
1622—Robert Pull	1857 }
1629—Gyles Banckes	1851 }
1634—Ed. Whin	to } William Waller, M.A.
1672—Thomas Bridge	1856 }
1673—W. Wagstaffe	1854—William Wilson
1679—Samuel Stanes	1856—Arthur Charles Copeman
„ —Robert Mousey	1857 }
„ —Zach. Paley	to } William Shipman, M.A.
1684—Josh. Thompson	1870 }
1702— — Newby	1856 }
1725—J. Murgatroyd	to } Alleyne Jas. Holmes, M.A.
1729—Chrs. Hodgson	1871 }
1731—Brian Borks	1870—4 John Imrie, M.A.
1746—Wm. Wade	1871—Arth. Richardson Menrant
1781—James Bentham	1872—Chas. J. Armistead, M.A.
1783—John Francis, junior	1873—4 William Bluck
1788 }	1874—5 Wm. Fred. Creeny, M.A.
to } Charles Hill	1874—7 G. Rainey Fletcher, B.A.
1806 }	1876—9 J. Popkin Morgan, M.A.
1806—John Ashley	1878 }
1814—John William Butt	to } H. Aldersey Swann, M.A.
1817—James Edward de Visme	1881 }
1818—Chas. Jos. Orman, B.A.	1879 }
1825—Caleb Collins	to } Wm. Geo. Deighton, M.A.
„ —William Wilson	1882 }
1831—W. K. Fletcher	1882—5 Clement Henry Brown
1836—R. L. Page	1882—5 Jos. R. Olorenshaw, B.A.
1837—Charles Smith	1885—9 E. Osborne Jones, M.A.
1845—James Tidemore	1889 — Tom Ainsworth Beode

\* In the certificate of Nicholas West, Bishop of Ely and John Huddylston and Philip Paris, Commissioners for the collection of the loan in Cambridgeshire (raised in 1522) containing the names of the persons, their values taxable, and the amount with which they were charged, we find the following list referring to Soham:—

“Edward Besteney 400 marks; Thos. Besteney £40; John Pecche £70; John Henryson £80; Edwd. Bernys 100 marks; Ric. Yaxlee £40; Jno Webbe £24; Thos. Yaxlee £80; Thos. Peche £40; Jno. Salusbury £40; Rich. Bye £80; Wm. Gore £26/13/4; Robt. Salusbury £20; Thos. Dowe £40; Wm. Parre £26; .....£40; Hy Howett £20; Thos. Peche £23; Wm. Peche £20; Edmond Wake £20; John Garsham £25; Margett Wollyngham, widow £30.”

† *Orders of the Cambridge Militia*.—On April 6, 1639, 250 footmen were impressed for service and were allowed 8d. a day for —days march between Cambridge and Selby upon Cross; the following being taken from Soham:—Henry Langham, John Balathfield (?), William Palmer, and Robert Price.

In the same year a levy was made for sending out 30 cart horses and carters for service in Northern parts, and Staplehoe hundred contributed £30 out of £500 from Cambridgeshire.

In 1640, 300 soldiers and 50 cart horses were levied from Cambs., Staplehoe hundred providing £55/10/0, 3 horses and 25 men.

And on June 21, 1640, 250 footmen were impressed from Cambs., those from Soham being Roger Langham, John Darby, Adam How, Thomas Gilbert, and Thomas Taylor.

COPIES OF INSCRIPTIONS UPON TOMBSTONES, OR MEMORIAL  
TABLETS IN THE CHURCH.

*Chancel.*

Under the Altar: Rev. Dr. Harwood's (see list of Vicars).

*North Wall.*

East of the fresco and within the rails: Rev. George Haggitt's.

\* State Papers, Domestic, 14 Henry 8. 2640. B.M.

† Harleian MSS. 4014. B.M.

Between the west arch of the chancel and arch opening into choir vestry, a tablet with the following inscription: "Sacred to the memory of John Dobede, Esq., of Soham Place, who died March 4, 1827, aged 62 years. Also of Margareta his wife, who died January 7, 1845, aged 87 years."

Over the arch into vestry and on its west side: "Sacred to the memory of Joseph Fairman Dobede, son of John Dobede, Esq., of Soham Place, who died June 11, 1845, aged 29 years. Also of Amelia Charlotte Dobede who died April 10, 1847, aged 22 years. Also of Emmeline Agnes Dobede, who died May 27, 1847, aged 18 years." The above has coat of arms with motto "A son droit."

Exactly over the centre of the same arch: "Sacred to the memory of Margareta Frances Dobede, eldest daughter of John Dobede, Esq., of Soham Place, who died June 9, 1837, aged 18 years. Also of Elizabeth Dobede, his second daughter, who died April 4, 1833, aged 12 years. Also of Catherine Jane, and William Pechey Dobede, who died in their infancy." The above has coat of arms with motto illegible.

To the east of the above: "Sacred to the memory of Ellen, the wife of John Dobede, Esq., of Exning Lodge, who died April 22, 1847, aged 25 years." Coat of arms with motto "Chacun a son droit."

*South Wall.*

Close up to the east end, and within the rails, over the piscina: "In memory of Mrs. Frances May, widow of Mr. Thomas May, of Newmarket, and daughter of Mr. John Dobede, senr. of this parish. She died at Norwich on 3rd June, 1828, aged 69, and was interred at Hethersett in Norfolk. This tablet is erected in filial remembrance of a kind and affectionate parent by her only daughter Anne the wife of George Dennes, gentleman, of London."

*Choir Vestry, East Wall.*

"In memory of William Pechey, gentleman, who departed this life July 16th, 1697, aged 65 years. At the great day of judgment when the secrets of all Hearts shall be discovered then shall it be known what sort of man he was. Also, of Margaret, his wife, who departed this life 17 March, 1807, aged 82,"

*Bernes Monument.*

In north-east corner, on the floor : "In memory of Dorothy, wife of Robert Hamond, Her most sorrowfvll hvsband hath in token of his trve love dedicated this. She bare vnto the said Robt Hamond, 8 children, 6 sonnes and 2 daughters, now living, and haveing rvnne ye race of her life here like a dvtifvll child, a sweet consort, a discreet mother, in ye midst of trovbles, possessing her sovre with patience, she willingly commended it into ye hands of God, and layd down ye tabernacle of her flesh in confidence of its resvrrection to a more happy life, ye 2nd day of Feb. An Dni 1616."

*North Transept.*

West wall over west arch and on south side of it : "Sacred to the memory of Mr. John Slack, late of this place, who died February 17th, 1840, aged 53 years. And of Margarettta Slack, his wife, died 25th June, 1871, aged 83 years." And on the floor near the south end of the screen is a small square block : "Mr. John Slack, 1840."

Exactly over centre of same arch : "M. S. Martini Wilkin qui filius Thomæ et Elizæ Wilkin Ingenuorum, natus Anno Domini 1674, obiit 1753. Etiam Saræ Mayer, filiae Nathanielis et Elizæ Sterne ; Martini Wilkin et postquam ille obiisset Gulielmi Mayer Chirurgi, Uxor. Nata est Anno Domini 1707 obiit 1776—Novissima dicimus. Valetè Valetè. Vos ordine, quo Natura permiserit nos cuncti sequemur. S: V: T: L." Surmounted by a coat of arms, and with cherub at base.

North-east corner on the floor : "Here resteth the body of Thomas Wilkin, the elder, gent. who departed this life, the 22nd day of July, Anno Dom 1699 aged 65 years and 5 months. Here also lyeth ye body of Eiiizth. Wilkin, wife to ye said Tho Wilkin who dyed December ye 11th, 1721, aged 81 years and 1 month."

*North Transept.*

North-west corner on the floor : "Here lye interred ye bodyes of Thomas Docwra, gent., and Mary his wife." No date.

*South Transept.*

South wall : Inscription to the Dowman family at back of double piscina. (See p. 232, Part VII.)

East wall, to the north of window : "Sacred to the memory of Thomas Cockayne, late of this parish Esqr. who died the 31st of July, 1778 aged 69. And also of Elizabeth, relict of the said Thomas Cockayne, who died the 29th of April, 1798, aged 75. And of Elizabeth, daughter of the aforesaid Thomas and Elizabeth who died an infant. This monument is gratefully and affectionately inscribed by Thomas Cockayne of Iekleford, in the county of Hertford, Esquire, their only son and representative." Coat of arms at base.

West wall, and south of arch : "Sacred to the memory of James Merest, Esq., late of the Moat, in this parish, grandson of James Merest, Esq., many years clerk assistant to the House of Lords. He died May 6, 1812, aged 53 years. And of Elizabeth his wife, who died at Winscombe Court, Co. Somerset, Oct. 22, 1834, aged 79 years, and was there interred." Coat of arms with motto "Invidia Major."

*South Aisle.*

Close to arch leading into transept and on south wall over the ambry : "Sacred to the memory of John Pechey, Esq., of the Holmes, Soham, who died March 29, 1818, in the 66 year of his age. Also of Richard, son of the above John Pechey and Mary his wife, who died Feb. 6, 1795, aged 15 years."

To the west of the south door and on the south wall : "Sacred to the memory of John Drage, Esq., who died 29th of April 1791, aged 72 years. Also of Sarah his wife, sister and heiress of Wm. Derisley, gent, who died 24 June, 1777, aged 76 years." Has coat of arms at base.

*South Aisle.*

Immediately under the arch into transept a stone with inscriptions to the memory of two or three members of the Dobedo family, but the words are illegible.

Just within the south door a black marble slab on the floor, with death's head and crossbones (the words now partly illegible); "In memory of Alice Shanks widow, of this parish who died ye 9 day of January, 1730, aged 66 years. And also of Alice the wife of James Alexander, gent., the only child of the above-named Alice Shanks, who died ye 28th day of April, 1750, aged 63 years."

On the west wall : "In memory of William Derisley, gent. An eminent attorney late of Staple Inn, London, whose extensive knowledge in ye law which he practised with great integrity, reputation and success was happily united with the several virtues and accomplishments which adorn the christian, the friend and the gentleman. He died June ye 5th, A.D. 1754, Ætat 44. In memory of Philippa Derisley, spinster who died Feby. the 5, 1755, Ætat 51. In memory of Philippa Derisley, widow, who died Feby. the 4th, 1759, Ætat 77."

*North Aisle.*

On floor at entrance, a black marble slab : "Here lieth the bodie of John Lier, gent., son and heire of John Lier, and late of this parish, who departed this life 19th of October, A.D. 1655." The whole of this inscription is now nearly illegible.

*Nave—North Side.*

Between the middle arch and the one on its east side and over the octagon pillar : "In memory of William Wilkin, gent., who died Decr. 5, 1802, aged 70 years. Also, Mary Wilkin, his wife, who died Nov. 13, 1820, aged 83 years. Also, of William Wilkin, gent., their son, who died Jan. 7, 1831, aged 34 years."

*Nave.*—Small brass to "Oliver Robyns."

*Brass on the base of Pulpit.*

"This pulpit is erected to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Charles George Warren, who was drowned in the wreck of the steam ship Carnatic, in the Red Sea, September XIV, MDCCLXIX."

*Outside the Church.*

On east wall of south transept : "In a vault near this place is deposited the body of Thomas Cockayne, gent, who departed this life Jan. 30, 1737, in the 74th year of his age. Also the body of Judith his wife, who died Dec. 28, 1741, aged 72."

*At base of Tower on south side.*

"Near this place is buried the body of Edmund Cumbers, who died in this parish ye 23rd day of April, 1794, aged 62. To whose memory and as a tribute of respect for forty-two years faithful services in one family this stone was ordered to be erected."

*To be continued.*

**208.—Ramsey Heights or Aits.—(No. 204, Part IX).—**

“Heights” does not necessarily mean great elevations. It might refer to those parts elevated above the Mere, or not subject to floods. Sax., *heitho*, means top, or reckoning from the bottom. We call the *high seas*, the *deep*. *Hihtho* was heights. *Hig*, high; *Heah*, lofty or noble. Our present spelling is somewhat misleading. Milton wrote “highth”; the word was also written *heygh* formerly. The levels on the Ordnance map will show whether the part should be “heights.”

But “Ait” or eyght is a small island in a river. Both these are probably compounds. (Sax. *ea*, also *ig*, an island). The locality will enable one to determine which name is appropriate. Now we write *eyot* for a little island.

The *Standard* of June 15th, 1891, contains a letter deprecating the threatened “Destruction of Kew Ait.” The writer says:—“Kew Ait is one of the prettiest of the Thames islands, and to destroy it would be a piece of vandalism.”

S. H. MILLER, Lowestoft.

“AIT”: A. S. dim. of *ieg* or *ig*, an islet or little isle in a river or lake, an *eyot* or *egot*, Blackstone II, 261; written also *ey*, *ayt*, *eyet*, *eyght*. R. Hodges uses it, 1649, “The ait where osiers grew.” The writer in the *Times* might have the above in mind when he wrote August, 1844, “Ait, a little Island in a River where osiers grew.” Another author has a similar definition, “Among green aits and meadows” (Dickens). These definitions would apply to Ramsey Aits, I presume, and their surroundings. Hence the inference is pretty clear that *ayt*, *eyet*, or *eyght*, is the proper mode of spelling, and not *heights*, which would seem to indicate High Lands, an elevated district.

S. E.

**209.—The French Colony at Thorney.—(No. 31, Part II).—**

Warner in his history says: “Nothing appears to be known for certain of the continental origin of this community.” Can any reader of *Fenland Notes* throw any light on a subject which would be of great interest to many of their descendants still living in the Fenland. Looking over a transcript of the Registers of the

Protestants' Church at Guisnes, 1668-1685, I was interested on finding in it a great number of the names which I have before met with in extracts from the *Sandtoft* and *Thorney* French Registers. That of Sandtoft is said to have been carefully kept from 1641 to 1681, and that of Thorney from 1654 to 1727. The inference is, that these three congregations were allied, and that we may look to the district east of Calais and Dunkirk (of which the churches of Marek and Guisnes, 6 miles east of Calais), were the centres) as being the source from which the Sandtoft and Thorney congregations emanated. Ezekiel Danois, the first minister of the Thorney congregation, 1652-1674, has been identified with Eziekiel Daunois, who is recorded as having been minister of the Huguenot congregation at Boulogne 1633-1650 by M. V. J. Vaillant.

S. E.

210.—**George Fox in the Fenland.**—Towards the close of 1656, George Fox, the Quaker, writes in his journal :

“After having had several meetings in Lincolnshire, I had at last a meeting where two knights, one called Sir Richard Wrey, and the other Sir John Wrey, with their wives, were at the meeting. One of their wives was convinced, received the truth, and died in it. When the meeting was over we passed away ; and it being evening, and dark, a company of wild serving men encompassed me about, with intent (as I apprehended) to do me mischief. But I spoke aloud to them, and asked, ‘What are ye, highwaymen?’ Whereupon some Friends and friendly people that were behind, came up to us, and knew some of them. So I reproved some of them for their uncivil and rude carriage, and exhorted them to fear God ; and the Lord’s power came over them, and stopped their mischievous design : blessed be his name for ever !

“Then I turned into Huntingdonshire : and the Mayor of Huntingdon came to visit me, and was very loving, and his wife received the truth.

“Thence I passed into Cambridgeshire, and the Fen country, where I had many meetings, and the Lord’s truth spread. Robert



Craven (who had been Sheriff of Lincoln), and Amos Stoddart, and Alexander Parker, were with me. We went to Crowland, a very rude place; for the town's-people were collected at the inn we went to, and were half drunk, both priest and people. I reproved them for their drunkenness, and warned them of the day of the Lord, that was coming upon all the wicked; exhorting them to leave their drunkenness, and turn to the Lord in time. Whilst I was thus speaking to them, and showing the priest the fruits of his ministry, he and the clerk broke out in a rage, and got up the tongs and fire-shovel to us; so that had not the Lord's power preserved us, we might have been murdered amongst them. Yet, for all their rudeness and violence, some received the truth, and have stood in it ever since.

"Thence we passed to Boston, where most of the chief of the town came to our inn, and the people seemed much satisfied. But there was a raging man in the yard, and Robert Craven was moved to speak to him, and told him he shamed Christianity, which with some few other words so stopped the man, that he went away quiet. Some were convinced there also."

The name of the "loving" Mayor of Huntingdon here mentioned I have not been able to obtain. The drunken priest of Crowland would appear to have been Richard Lee, presented to the Rectory in 1654, and again in the following year, who remained till 1671.

Fox again visited this district in 1662. Writing in that year, he says:

"Travelling into Lincolnshire and Huntingdonshire, I came to Thomas Parnell's, where the Mayor of Huntingdon came to see me and was very loving. Thence I came into the Fen country, where we had large and quiet meetings. While I was in that country, there came so great a flood that it was dangerous to go out, yet we did get out, and went to Lynn, where we had a blessed meeting. Next morning I went to visit some prisoners there, and then back to the inn, and took horse. As I was riding out of the yard, the officers came to search the inn for me. I knew nothing of it then, only I felt a great burthen come upon me as I rode

out of the town, till without the gates. When some Friends that came after overtook me, they told me that the officers had been searching for me in the inn as soon as I was gone out of the yard."

CHAS. E. DAWES.

**211.—Knights of the Royal Oak in Hunts.**—This order was founded by Charles II. soon after the Restoration, as a reward to several of his followers. The Knights were to wear a silver medal with the device of the king in the oak of Boscobel pendant to a ribbon around their necks. It was subsequently thought proper to lay it aside, as it was found only to re-open old wounds and create animosity. The following list of names of persons in Huntingdonshire (with the amount of their annual incomes) who were recommended for this dignity is obtained from a record kept at the time :—

Major Lyonel Walden, Esq.....	0600£
Henry Williams, Esq., of Bodsey .....	2000
Apreece, of Washingley, Esq.....	1000
Robert Apreece, Esq. ....	1500
John Stone, Esq.....	1000
Richard Naylor, Esq. ....	0600
Thomas Rous, Esq. ....	0800

CHAS. E. DAWES.

**212.—The Seven Townships of Marshland.**—Mr. E. M. Beloe, of Lynn, made the following reference to the seven townships of Marshland in a recent lecture delivered at Lynn :—

There is in the great basin which forms the Fen country a pavement as it were of peat. We have to limit our inquiry to a district which extends not more than 20 miles around Lynn. The whole of that district is paved as it were with peat. It is underneath the whole town of Lynn. It runs up to the hills at Gaywood ; it goes through the whole of Marshland ; it edges the sea wherever it goes to Hunstanton and Brancaster. If you want to get a fine section of it you cannot do better than take a boat at low tide up the Estuary Cut. You will find about six feet from

the surface one level line quite the whole four miles on both sides, which the cut divides. The district to which we must narrow our inquiry is bounded by the Nene on the one side, and by the Ouse on the other. These are the eastern and western boundaries, the northern being the Wash, and the southern the Fens. Leaving, then, the peat district uncovered which is the fen proper, go further south than the great fen, which at one time formed the common. It has since been divided up; it is now called the Marshland Fen and the Marshland Smeeth. Radiating from this common are the seven townships of Marshland, which were once open to the sea, and they must have joined, when the sea ebbed and flowed over them, to form a great barrier and to shut it out. There must have been a great combination, for they formed a bank, which is the eastern boundary to the Nene, the northern boundary on the sea, and the western boundary passing what was then the Lin. Now, we will take this bank as the boundary of Marshland, and we will call it by its name, the Roman Bank. The Roman Bank formed the eastern boundary of the river Ouse, running down and forming a defence from the sea, which then flowed up past the Wiggenhalls. The people that formed the seven parishes called them by names which, as to four, had reference to this bank. We have the Wal-soken, the Wal-ton, and the Wal-pole, all of them having reference to the bank; for "wall" formerly did not mean only that which was built of bricks and mortar, but anything of earth as well. Thus we have Clenchwarton—one of these seven towns, and the name of this village has a very singular derivation, to which I must call your attention. The "war" in Clenchwarton is well known to be equivalent to guard. The Warborough is a beacon, and is so marked on the Ordnance map; there are two on the north coast of Norfolk, and War-ham, near Wells, with its grand Danish Camp is the Guard-town. The Wartown or Guardtown is a town which is created entirely by banks. You may take that name as clear as you may the Walpoles and Walton. The first syllable is also singular and can well be made out. It is written in Domesday "Cleuch," precisely as on the other side of the German Ocean

we have "Helvoet sluys." Now, mind, a sluice then was not as we have it now—to let water in, but "sluice" comes from *exclusia*—to exclude the water. That is well-known; and therefore we have in Clenchwarton the town guarded by banks excluding the water.

**213.—The Brownes of Walcot, in the parish of Barnack, co. Northampton.**—This family, long seated here, is said to have been descended from Sir John Browne (woodmonger) merchant taylor, a native it is said of Rutland, Lord Mayor 1480, son of John Brown, alias Moses, of Oakham and London, who was son of Richard Brown, alias Moses, of Oakham. Their pedigree has been imperfectly given in Burke's *Extinct and Dormant Baronetage*, and wrongly in *Wright's Rutland*. In the following and succeeding papers I shall endeavour from par. regs., wills, and notes, in my own collection, to render it somewhat more complete, as to data, &c., &c.

Sir John Browne, the Lord Mayor, named above, in his will dated 3 Nov. 1496 pr. 25 Jan. following describes himself as a Knight, Citizen and Alderman of London; desires to be buried in the parish church of St. Mary Magdalene, in Milk-street; names his late son Richard as being buried in the church of St. Thomas of Acres and desires prayers to be said for the repose of his soul; specially mentions the town of Lowyk, in Northumbland (? Luffwyk, Northamps.), and bequeaths a sum towards the parish church there, and to "my poor kynnefolk dwelling within the said county;" and moneys to various persons to pray for his soul, among them being Maister George Werke, clerk, and Alice his sister; Thomas and Raufe a Werke; James a Werke, his wife and children; Margaret Haydock, widow; Sir John Fenkell, Knt., and my lady his wife; Edward Fenkell, &c. Names his wife's sister, Elizabeth Belknap, late the wife of Richd. Hatton (? Haddon), mercer, and "my cosen her son Doctour Hatton, and Margarete Hosier, wife of John Hosier, mercer," and "my wife's brother, Thomas Belwoode." Leaves bequests to the four children of his son William (naming his late wife as "Kateryn, daughter

of Lady Shaa"), also to John West, mercer, and his children; George Neville, mercer, &c. "Cosen" William Browne, mercer, of Stebonheth (Stepney) is left overseer of the will, and wife Anne, and sons William and Thomas.

Sir William Browne, Lord Mayor, 1513, son of Sir John in his will dated 29 May and pr. 1 July 1513, describes himself as "Citizen and Alderman of the City of London, nowe Maior of the same Citie;" desires to be buried in the church of St. Thomas the Martyr, called Acon. After naming his late father, Sir John Browne, Knight, and Dame Anne, late wife, the following names occur: Maister Doctour Shorton; Doctour Bollond; "Katheryn late my wife," present wife, Dame Alice; his children William, John Mattheve, Anne, and Elizabeth; Sir Edmonde Shaa, and Dame Juliane, his wife (being named conjointly with the names of his own father and mother, undoubtedly these are the parents of his late wife Kateryn); Cousin Kateryn (Alec?); John West, mercer, and my "cosen" his wife; godson Willm West, their son, and his brother John; Isibell pyke; Willm. Browne the younger, son of William Browne the elder,\* late Alderman; Richard Fermor, grocer; Margaret Riche, wid.; Erasmus Forde, mercer; cousins Thos. Riche and his sister Kateryn Riche, and (Frysell?), Priour of Rochester. Also bequests to the children of his uncle, Thos. Belwoode, and to my poor kinsfolk's on my fathers side in

(\*Sir William B. the elder, Lord Mayor 1507, in his will dated 20 Mch. 1507, pr. in P.C.C. 6 June 1508, describes himself as "William Browne the elder, Citizen and Alderman of the Citie of Londou;" desires to be buried in the parish church of our Lady in Aldermanbury. Leaves bequests to Thos Hynde, citizen and mercer, and my daughter his wife; sons Anthony and Leonard Browne on their coming to lawful age or being married; cousin Mr. Geo. Werks, clk; my child Thos Torell (?); my cousin Wm. Browne, Alderman, son of Sir John Browne, Knt., &c.; names his six children, William, Anthony, Leonard, Katerne, Margaret, and Anne; lands and tenements at Stebonhith and in the town of Calais, left to his son William; lands, &c., in the parish of S. Laurence Pountney to his son Anthony with reversion to son Leonard, who is likewise to inherit lands and tenements in the parish of our Lady, in Aldermanbury, in the lane called Love Lane. Executors: Elizabeth my wife; my cousin Willm. Browne, Alderman, son of Sir John Browne; Thos. Hynde, citizen and mercer; and Sir Robert Rede, Knt., C. J. of the Common Pleas).

Northumberland ; specifies the children of his wife Alice as John, Mathewe, Anne, and Elizabeth, appointing the said Alice their guardian ; son William mentioned as under age. Leave bequests to Sir Tho. Tyrrel, Knt., and my lady his wife ; and to my daughter Juliane, now wife of John Munday, citizen and Alderman of London ; and to my father in law Henry Kebyll, Alderman. Lands &c. in Essex. Executors : Henry Kebyll, John Munday, Robt. Blagge, one of the Barons of the King's Exchequer, and his son Willm Browne. Overseers : Sir Thos. Lovell, Knt. ; Richd. Broke, sergt-at-law ; John West, mercer ; John Hosyar (Hosier ?), mercer. Assistant to the executors : Master Doctor Shorton. Alice widow of testator, mar. Willm. Blount, 4th Lord Montjoy, soon after her husband's death, died in 1521 and was bur. in the church of the Grey Friars.

Sir John, L.M., 1480, is said to have had two wives, his first was Alice Swinstead, and by her a son, Robert, and his second Anne Belwood. In his will before quoted, he desires prayers to be said for the repose of the soul of his son Richard, surely he would have done so for a late wife. The Harl. M.S., 1541, fol. 135b, has a Browne pedigree, in which Sir John's ancestor is stated to be Sir Anthony Browne, K.B. to Hen. 4. He is given 2 wives, Alice Swinstead and Anne Belwood, from the former of whom the Brownes of Walcot (arms, az., a chevron betw. 3 escallops or, within a bordure engr. gu) are made to spring from the latter, the Sir William. L.M. 1507 (instead of 1513). If any reliance can be placed thereon, we have at once the Montague Brownes, of Beechworth castle, Surrey, established as being of the same stock as we are now treating. It is somewhat strange that in not one of the wills quoted before is there the remotest allusion to the county of Rutland, from which hailed Sir John, L.M., 1490. One would think that the church of Oakham, its guilds, or poor would receive some recognition of his regard. Robert, his son, progenitor of the Walcot branch of the family, Chancellor of the Exchequer, settled here in the reign of Henry 7, mar. Isabel, dau. and heiress of Sir John Sharpe, Knt., and had Robert, his successor, Edward, a Knight of Rhodes, and a

dau. Isabel (called Margaret in the Quarles' ped.), m. to George Quarles, of Ufford, co. Northamps, esq.

JUSTIN SIMPSON. Stamford.

*To be continued.*

**214.—Miller's Toll Dish.**—(No. 206, Part IX).—In reply to the correspondent who asks for information concerning the Miller's Toll Dish I may say it was the measure of the quantity of corn taken in payment for the grinding, and seems to be a relic of the old system of barter. "Toll is a part *lifted off* or taken away." Tooke connected it with the p. participle of A. Sax. *Tilian*, to lift up; also, to till (to lift up the soil). A bell is tolled by being lifted up.

*Tól, tole, tohl*, A. Sax., a tax, tool, &c., from *tilian*. (Skinner).

We find the phrase in IVANHOE. After the first day's tournament at Ashby, Gurth was entrusted with a bag of money for Isaac the Jew, but returning from the town with money still in his possession he encountered robbers, with one of whom he had a little fencing, whereat the other robbers, laughing, cried out, "Miller! beware thy toll-dish."

S. H. MILLER, Lowestoft.

**215.—Metrical Description of the Fens, 1685.**—The accompanying verses appeared in a small volume published in 1685, said to be written by Samuel Fortrey, Esq., entitled "The History or Narrative of the Great Level of the Fenns called Bedford Level." The main facts in the "Narrative, &c.," are principally the same as those in Wells' "Bedford Level," but a paragraph relating to the Commons may be interesting to readers of *Fenland Notes*.

The writer says:—"Most of the Commons in the map (Jonas Moore's) described, out of which the 95,000 acres were taken, are (by the Countrey) in Pursuance of the Act 15, Car. 2., lately divided and enjoyed as Severals to the particular Owners and Commoners of such respective Towns to which those Commons belonged. And others finding that such Division and Cutting of the Commons proved a great wast of Ground, and the Fences hard to be kept, and the great diminution of Stock, and decay of

Houses; many selling their Lands from the same, to the increasing of the Poor. Therefore they would not divide, but have by Agreement decreed in Chancery the same by way of a Stint to feed the same, every house alike; so that in some Towns there is above 2,000 Milch Cows, besides a great running Stock fed thereon, viz., Cottenham, Chartresse, March, Wimblington, Maney, and other Towns to their great improvement and Enriching."

The verses are introduced at the end of the "Narrative" as a Postscript of the Bookseller to the Reader. He says:—"I have had come to my hands the verses following, which I find were formerly writ on this Subject by some Ingenious hand; and therefore I thought it might not be amiss to annex them herunto."

*A True and Natural Description of the Great Level of the Fenns.*

I sing no Battels fought, nor Armies foiled,  
Nor Cities raz'd nor Commonwealths embroil'd,  
Nor any History, which may move your tears,  
Or raise your spleens, or multiply your Fears;  
But I bespeak your wonder, your delight,  
And would your Emulation fain invite.

I sing Floods muzled, and the Ocean tam'd,  
Luxurious Rivers govern'd, and reclam'd,  
Waters with Banks confin'd, as in a Gaol,  
Till kinder Sluces let them go on Bail;  
Streams curb'd with Dammes like bridles, taught t'obey,  
And run as strait, as if they saw their way.

I sing of heaps of Water turn'd to Land,  
Like an Elixir by the Chymist's hand,  
Of Dropsies cur'd, where not one Limb was sound,  
The Liver rotted, all the Vitals drown'd.  
No late discover'd Isle, nor old Plantation  
New Christned, but a kind of New Creation.

I sing of heaps of Gold, and Indian Ore,  
Of private Profit, and of Public Store;  
No fine Romance, nor Fables I invent,  
Nor Coyn Utopia's, but a Scene present,  
Which with such rare, yet real bliss doth Swell,  
As would perswade a Monk to leave his Cell.



I sing of an Atchievment, from above,  
 Both Blest and Crown'd, which God and good Men Love,  
 Which Kings and States encourage and protect  
 With Prudent Power, which none can disaffect,  
 But the poor Fish, who now wants room to play  
 Hassocks, and Men with Heads more rough than they.

Go on, Brave Vndertakers, and Succeed,  
 In spite of Brutish Clamours, take no heed  
 To those that curse your Generous labours ; he  
 That good refrains 'cause Men unthankful be,  
 Mistakes true Vertues aim, each worthy Act  
 Doth a Reward, beyond Applause, expect.

Make universal Plenty, and restore  
 What Ten years Wars have ruin'd ; let the Poor  
 Share your wise Alms, some will perhaps confess  
 Their Obligation, and your Vertues bless ;  
 But if the present Age forget their Friends,  
 Be sure Posterity will make amends.

They'll be indifferent Judges, at what Rates,  
 And with what Arts you purchas'd your Estates,  
 They will not grudge that you took so much Land,  
 But wonder why you did not more demand ;  
 They'l candidly believe, that Publick Zeal  
 Had more of Influence here, than Private Weal.

When by your Noble Pattern and Success,  
 Taught and encourag'd all Men shall profess  
 A hate of Sloth, and so the Sea shall more  
 Feel your Example, than your Skill before,  
 Whilst all to work that Publick Tyrant's bane,  
 At once Conspire, as if he were a Dane.

When such as have no Wit but to defame  
 All generous Works, and blast them with the Name  
 Of giddy Projects, are described to be  
 But slaves to Custom, Friends to Popery,  
 And ranckt with those, who, lest they should accuse  
 Their Sires, no harness, but the Tail, will use.

When to your Glory, all your Banks shall stand  
 Like the immortal Pyramide, and your Land  
 Forget it e're was Sea, when those dull Wits,  
 That Judge by Sence, become time's Proselytes,  
 And such as know no other Argument,  
 Shall be at last confuted by th' Event.

When Bedford's stately Bank, and noble Drain,  
 Shall Paralell the Streights of Magellane,  
 Or Hercules his Pillars, in due Fame,  
 Because they wear your Livery in their Name,  
 And your Renoun shall share the Bays with theirs,  
 Who, in times past, built Amphitheatres.

When Cities shall be built, and Houses tall  
 As the proud Oak, which you their Founders call,  
 Fair Orchards planted, and the Myrtle Grove,  
 Adorn'd, as if it were the Scene of Love.  
 Gardens with Flowers of such auspicious hew,  
 You'd swear, that Eden in the Desert grew.

When it appears, the All-sufficient Soyl,  
 With Primitive Strength, yields as much Corn as Oyl,  
 To make our Hearts strong, as our Faces gay,  
 Meadows so blest with Grass, so charg'd with Hay,  
 With goodly Kine, and Beeves replenisht so,  
 As if they stood upon the Banks of Po.

When all dire Vapours (if there any were,  
 Besides the Peoples breath) are turn'd to Air,  
 Pure as the Upper Region; and the Sun;  
 Shall shine like one well pleas'd with what is done,  
 When Agues, Scurveys, Coughs, Consumptions, Wind,  
 All Crude Distempers here their Cure shall find.

When with the change of Elements, suddenly  
 There shall a change of Men and Manners be;  
 Hearts, thick and tough as Hydes, shall feel Remorse,  
 And Souls of Sedge shall understand Discourse,  
 New hands shall learn to Work, forget to Steal,  
 New leggs shall go to Church, new knees shall kneel.

When Ouse proves Helicon, when the Nean forsake  
 Their lofty Mountain, and themselves betake  
 To this delicious Vale, when Caps and Gowns  
 Are seen at Wisbich; when for sordid Clowns,  
 And savage Scythians, There Succeeds a Race,  
 Worthy the Bliss and Genius of the place.

What Trophies will you purchase then? what Bays  
 Will ye acquire? what Acclamations raise?  
 What greater Satisfaction? what Reward  
 Of higher price, can all the World afford,  
 Than in a Work of such Renoun and Merit,  
 T'engross the glory, and the bliss t'inherit?

Meanwhile proceed, and Opposition slight,  
 Envy perhaps may bark, it cannot bite.  
 Your Cause is good, your Friends are great, your Foes  
 Have neither Power nor Colour, to oppose.  
 Rubbs you may meet with ; why should that displeasè ?  
 Would you accomplish Vast designs with Ease ?

But vainly I, with weak insinuations,  
 Your Wisdoms importune, such fond perswasions  
 Fit none but drooping Minds, whom fears oppress ;  
 No terrour ; no alarm can you possess,  
 Who, free from sinful Canaanites annoy,  
 The Land of Promise, now in part enjoy.

Your Proudest foes begin to sue for Peace,  
 And with their hopes, their malice doth decrease ;  
 They all confess, that Heaven with you Combines,  
 Sit down therefore in safety. Your designs  
 Begun with Vertue, shall with Fortune end,  
 For Profit publick thoughts do still attend.

And now a Muse as fruitful as the Land,  
 Assist me, whilst my too unskilful hand  
 Describes the Glories of this Place, a Skill  
 Which might perhaps deserve some Laureat's Quill.  
 But I presume, the Reader's Charity  
 And wise Conjecture will my faults supply.

All Seeds, all Plants and Herbs, this noble field  
 Doth, with a kind of Emulation, yield ;  
 Would you see Plenty, it is stor'd with Grain,  
 Like Egypt when Rome's Pride it did maintain.  
 With roots of Monstrous bulk, flesh, fowl, and fish,  
 All that the Belly or the Tast can wish,

Here thrives the lusty Hemp, of Strength untam'd,  
 Whereof vast Sails, and mighty Cables fram'd,  
 Serve for our Royal Fleets, Flax soft and fine  
 To the East Countrey envy could we joyn  
 To England's Blessings, Holland's industry,  
 We all the World in wealth should far outvie.

Here grows proud Rape, whose price and plenty foys  
 The Greenland Trade, and checks the Spanish Oyls,  
 Whose branch thick, large, and tall, the Earth so shrowds,  
 As heaps of Snow, the Alps, or pregnant Clouds,  
 The azure sky, or like that Heavenly Bread,  
 Which in the Wilderness God's bounty shed.

After long Tillage, it doth then abound  
 With Grass so plentiful, so sweet, so sound,  
 Scarce any tract but this can Pastures shew  
 So large, so rich, And, if you wisely Sow  
 The fine Dutch Clover, with such Beauty spreads,  
 As if it meant t'affront our English Meads.

The Gentle Ozier, plac't in goodly ranks,  
 At small expence, upon the comely Banks,  
 Shoots forth to admiration here, and yields  
 Revenues certain, as the Rents of Fields,  
 And for a Crown unto this blest Plantation,  
 Almost in every Ditch there's Navigation.

To scan all its Perfections, would desire  
 A Volume, and as great a Skill require,  
 As that which Drayned the Countrey ; in one word,  
 It yields whate're our Climate will afford ;  
 And did the Sun with kinder beams reflect,  
 You might Wine, Sugar, Silk, and Spice expect.

Fond witless Usurer, to rest content  
 In that thy Money yields thee 6 per Cent.,  
 Which thou with hazard of the Principal,  
 Dost rigorously extort from Men in thrall,  
 Come here, and look for gain both vast and just,  
 And yet so Constant, that thou need'st not trust.

Unhappy Farmer, that employ'st thy Skill,  
 And wasts thy strength upon some barren Hill,  
 Which too ungrateful, scarce the borrowed Seed  
 At length restores, much less relieves thy need.  
 These Fields shall yield thee Gold, And yet require  
 No labour, but the Alchymie of Fire.

Poor Curate, whom thine envious Stars prefer  
 To be some hide-bound Parsons Pensioner,  
 On such hard Terms, that if thy Flock were fed  
 As ill as thou, their Souls might starve for Bread ;  
 When these fair Fields are Plow'd, then cast with me  
 How large, how fat, the livings here must be.

Ye busie Gentlemen that plant the Hop,  
 And dream vast gains from that deceitful Crop,  
 Or by manuring what you ought to Let  
 Thrive backwards, and too dearly purchase Wit,  
 Leave off these Lotteries, and here take your Lot,  
 The Profit's certain, and with ease, 'tis got.

Courageous Merchants, who, confronting fates,  
Trust Seas and Pyrates with your whole Estates,  
Part in this Bank, methinks were far more sure ;  
And ye whom hopes of sudden Wealth allure,  
Or wants into Virginia, force to fly,  
Ev'n spare your pains ; here's Florida hard by.

Fair Damsels, that your portions would advance,  
Employ them on this blest Inheritance ;  
And faithful Guardians, that would quit the trust  
In you reposed, like Men as wise as just,  
Here, here, bestow your Orphans Talents, ye  
Shall now no longer Friends but Fathers be.

All ye that Treasures either want, or love  
(And who is he, whom Profit will not move ?)  
Would you repair your fortunes, would you make,  
To this most fruitful Land your selves betake,  
Where first your Money doubles, in a trice,  
And then by new Progression multiplies.

If therefore Gain or Honour, or Delight,  
Or care of Publick Good, will Men invite  
Into this fortunate Isle, now let them enter  
With confidence ; since here they all concenter ;  
But if all these be choakt, and drown'd with flegm,  
Let them enjoy their Sloth, sit still, and dream.

W. W. G.

216.—**A Legend of Peterborough.**—On Sunday, the 15th of March, the bells of St. John's Church were rung in accordance with the terms of the will of Matthew Wyldbore, who for some years represented the city in Parliament. There is an old story which finds credence in the neighbourhood as explaining the reason why the money was left for this purpose. It is to the effect that Wyldbore was one day walking in the Fens near the city when a dense fog rapidly began to gather. In a short time it became so dense that it was difficult to see more than a yard or so in advance. Mr. Wyldbore experienced the greatest difficulty in finding his way, although he was quite familiar with every spot. After making various attempts to reach the city, he was obliged to confess to himself that he was lost. Darkness was coming on, which added considerably to the dangers of his condition. He

began to tremble at every step he took, fearing it might lead him into a quagmire, or one of the many fen drains. He had finally decided not to attempt to traverse the fen any further, but would await as best he could the return of daylight, and with it, he hoped, the lifting of the fog. It was bitterly cold, and the prospect of spending the night under such conditions was anything but consoling. While wearily waiting in the mist and cold, with the hoarse croak of the frog as the only sound to break the stillness, he was suddenly startled by the sound of distant bells. They were far off, but attentively listening, he recognised them as the bells of St. John's Church at Peterborough. In the fog he had wandered away from the city instead of nearer to it. The bells were ringing a merry peal. The sound came down the wind over the fen clearly and distinctly. Mr. Wyldbore resolved to follow the direction in which the sound came. As he advanced step by step the sound grew nearer. His only fear was that the peal might cease before he should reach the city. But they continued to ring on, and at every step the bells sounded louder and nearer, and finally, they were still ringing when he reached the streets of his native city. In gratitude for his deliverance, Mr. Wyldbore left a plot of land, the proceeds of which were to be given to the ringers of St. John's, on condition of their ringing a peal on the bells on the 15th of every March.

If any stranger was to visit Peterborough on the 15th of March, and hearing the bells pealing was to ask of the first citizen he met the reason, the probability is he would receive the above story as as a piece of local history.

It has, however, been explained that the reason for the benefaction was that Mr. Wyldbore was an ardent campanologist, and he desired to promote the study of bell-ringing.

**217.—The Nene between Peterborough and Wisbech.**—In 1862, J. G. Cockburn Curtis, C.E., held an Admiralty enquiry at Peterborough concerning the state of the river Nene between Peterborough and Wisbech. Some of the "recollections" of the witnesses were interesting.

Charles Freer, of Stanground, said :—"The boats generally in use on the river at Peterborough were 20 tons burden. He remembered Northey Gravel being dredged. It had the effect of lowering the depth of water at Peterborough. Woodstone Stanch was afterwards constructed. Before that was done, boatmen had to make a temporary stanch themselves at that point to get over the gravel."

John Burdock, in charge of the North Level sluice at the Dog-in-a-Doublet, said :—"That in August, 1858, and also in 1859, the salt water got into Thorney river."

John Bossett said :—"Salt water penetrated to Thorney several times in 1859, and got into the reservoir."

Robert Gossling, who occupied a farm about half a mile from Northey Gravel, said :—"In 1858 the water in the Nene at that point was so salt that his stock would not drink it. It was brackish at the same time at Northey Gravel. The summer of 1858 was the driest we had ever known. The water remained salt for three or four days, but we had never before known it to remain salt for a whole day."

John Rowell, a publican, on Morton's Leam Bank, about 2 miles from Stanground, said :—"The water in the river opposite his house was salt in 1858."

George Bowker, keeper of the Stanground sluice, remembered salt water getting into the sluice in 1826.

Mr. Thos. Marr Johnson, said :—"The highest flood line above datum at Peterborough Bridge, of which we had any record, was 44ft. 4in. in 1852, and the same flood at the Dog-in-a-Doublet was 43ft. 2in. above datum. The lowest water of which he had any record at Peterborough, was 35ft. 2in. on March 5th, 1862."

Mr. Richard Young, Mayor of Wisbech, said :—"I am a ship owner and trader at Wisbech to a very considerable extent. I am well acquainted with the navigation of the river Nene. I have been a sluice keeper at the Foul Anchor twenty years, and was also a superintendent of the works of the Nene Outfall (North Level), under the Outfall Commissioners, from the upper end of Kinderley's Cut to the Sea. I remember the dams being placed in the river

in 1855 or 1856, one at Walderssea, three miles above Wisbech, and one at Guyhirn six or seven miles above Wisbech. The Walderssea dam was taken up in January, 1859, and the other about March. The object of those dams, as I understood, was to enable the contractor to carry out his works. The effect of them was almost entirely to annihilate the navigation. Previous to the erection of the dams I was carrying on a very extensive trade with large vessels, importing myself into Wisbech from 90,000 to 100,000 tons annually. I had adopted screw steamers, one in particular, carrying nearly 700 tons, which made 52 voyages in the 12 months previous to erection of the dams, and never stopped for want of water more than three times at the Cross Keys Bridge. All other times she came up to Wisbech, sometimes on dead of neaps with a full cargo, drawing 13ft. 6in. After the dams were erected the the pile berth which had been constructed for that ship gradually silted up, so much so that there was a sand-bank 5ft. above low water at the place where she used to ground in 9ft. of water. I have even driven my horses across to the other side of the river. There were a great number of other sand-banks formed all the way down from Wisbech town to Walton dam and the North Level Sluice at Foul Anchor Ferry, five miles below Wisbech. The silting up was not so bad from the upper end of Kinderley's Cut to the North Level Sluice. It continued to get worse and worse, until the dams were removed, both above and below the town, so much so that it entirely destroyed that branch of my business—the screw colliers.

By the Inspector : I have seen Humber keels drawing 7ft stick on the sand-banks during neap ; before that ships of 700 tons, drawing 13ft., might have passed on the neaps.

By Mr. Jackson : the bonding yards were about half a mile below Wisbech Bridge. Vessels of the size I have stated (700 tons) have frequently come up to these before the dams were erected. After the dams were erected, they were obliged to stop and "lighter up." During the time those dams were up, I was supplying an immense quantity of coke and coal to Petreborough, by barges of from 17 to 25 tons burden 48ft. long, and 10 or 11ft.



wide, drawing about two or three feet loaded, and about a foot light. I was under heavy penalties unless I fulfilled my contract. I had to pay those penalties, and a very heavy law suit besides. The silting up of the river and the consequent expenses of detention, &c., prevented me from fulfilling the contracts. I have a fleet of steam ships and colliers trading all over the world. I could not get these up to Wisbech. Between Wisbech and the Waldersea dam there was no difficulty in getting small lighters up on the tide, but only on the tide. The tide would last about two or three hours. At low water it was dry. This portion of the river had been improved, and was very deep before the dams were erected. When I got to Waldersea dam on the tide, I could proceed through the dam, and navigate up to Guyhirn. The fresh water was kept up between Guyhirn upwards. Between the Guyhirn Sluice and Peterborough the navigation at that time was very bad indeed. In the summer of 1858, I could not navigate at all until the tide was let in. The merchants petitioned for the sluice to be opened, and Mr. Leather consented. Notwithstanding the dams being there, there was not a navigable depth until the tidal water was let in. The fresh water had been drawn off through Stanground Sluice and the Dog-in-a-Doublet. I believe the last dam was removed in March 1859. Afterwards the shoals were gradually removed, and when the land floods came in the following winter, the obstructions were nearly or entirely removed.

I have taken perhaps a greater interest in the tides and the navigation of the river than any other man in the district.

It was my intention when the Act of 1852 was obtained, that long shallow sea going steamers should have been built to navigate right the way to Peterborough. I intended to come from the north of Europe in one bottom to Peterborough. This would have been greatly to the advantage of Wisbech. You can't improve Wisbech in the navigation without improving Peterborough.

The works carried out under the Act of 1852 have not improved the facilities for vessels coming up to town. I do not apply this answer to the whole of the works which have been done from Wisbech Bridge to the county boundary. There were shoals in

the town, which have been dredged out and the berths made better. I don't know whether the navigable area has been much increased. Quays have been constructed for a length of about a quarter of a mile. I think nothing important in the Nene, from Wisbech Bridge to the County Boundary, was carried out between 1848 and 1852. I am aware that in the Autumn of 1852 there were very heavy continuous floods. Before anything was done to the channel under the Nene Valley Act there was a great scour through the town of land floods. Each land flood always scours the river all the way down. I have seen the owners of granaries, who had frontages to the river, throw stone in and build it up to protect the foundations of their buildings, leaving it there as long as the floods allowed it to remain. They had occasion very frequently to renew the operation.

Thomas Andrews, Stanground, said: I have lived there 40 years. I remember the fish being killed by the salt water at Stanground about 30 years ago—fish were killed by cart loads.

Mr. George Dawbarn, merchant of Wisbech, member of the Corporation, and of the Nene Valley Commissioners, said: There was a change in the commerce of the port of Wisbech. The railways have almost annihilated the coal trade, but there are now indications that if proper facilities are given, the foreign trade will rapidly increase.

218.—**Robert Vigerous of Spalding.**—In the Rev. J. R. Olorenshaw's *Notes on Soham*, (p. 303, Part IX, six lines from the bottom), the name occurs of "Robt. Vig. . . . . (?)" I think there can be no doubt this was "Robt. Vigerous," as his name occurs in the Spalding Register of Marriages as the Justice of the Peace who witnessed most of the marriages here during the Commonwealth. He and John Harrington sign the appointment of Robert Ram, the then Minister of Spalding, to act as Registrar (sic) in 1653.

Robert Vigerous seems to have been an active Justice, and Ram a strong Parliamentarian. Ram signs the Register from March 23rd, 1639, and on February 8th, 1656, is written, "Hue usque

scripsit Rob D<sup>s</sup> D<sup>s</sup> Robt. Ram," &c. So that it is very evident that Vigerous and Ram acted together. MARTEN PERRY.

**219.—Whittlesea Charities Inquisition, 1667—(continued).—**

And that the said Persons Trustees so named shall from and after the Executing of this Decree stand and be Seized of the aforesaid two Parcels of Land commonly known by the name of the Angle and Pingle and of and in the aforesaid Cottage with a Garden containing half an Acre and two Half Full Lands together with Twenty Acres of Improved Land allotted to the said Cottage and ten to the said Half Full Lands And the Ten Acres in the Occupation of the said Thomas Wiseman and Decreed to be Conveyed as before mentioned together as also with a certain piece of Land lying in Whittlesea aforesaid called by the Name of the Common half Acre And the Alms Houses before mentioned to such Publick and Pious Uses for the Good of the said Township of Whittlesea in manner also as shall be hereafter expressed and declared ~~And whereas~~ the said Thomas Wiseman pretends to claim to Thirty Pounds as a Debt due to him from the said Township of Whittlesea which if due we conceive to be due to him from Robert Coveney deceased and finding that the mean Profits remaining in his Hands at Three Pounds  $\frac{7}{12}$  Annum as these ten Acres of Land for Fourteen Years Amounting to Forty four Pounds We do adjudge and Decree the said Thomas Wiseman to be and in Consideration of his Satisfaction for the said Pounds is hereby declared to be discharged of the mean Profits of the said Ten Acres of Land unto the Feast of Annunciation of our Blessed Virgin Mary last past ~~And also~~ we further order adjudge Decree that the several Obligors who stand indebted to the Use of the Poor of the said Township of Whittlesea in several Sums of Money according to several obligations and Bill in a Schedule as before mentioned hereto annexed do renew the several Securities for the said Monies within three Months to the Governors hereafter named or any Seven or more of them for the Pious Uses by Bills and Writings Obligatory mentioned and declared And it was further Ordered adjudged and Decreed by the Commissioners

aforesaid that Francis Underwood Esquire Robert Glaphorne Esquire Richard Read Gent. Robert Beale the Elder Gent. The Vicar of Whittlesea Saint Marys for the Time being Thomas Wiseman the Elder Gent. John Laxon the Elder Thomas Ground Joseph Ives John Laxon the Younger Francis Bevill and Christopher Turner shall be and are hereby ordered adjudged and Decreed and Appointed to be Governors of the Yearly Revenues and Profits of the Lands and Monies in this Decree before mentioned And that they or any Seven or more of them four times in the Year meet in the School House in Saint Marys Church in Whittlesea (that is to say) on Monday next after the Feast of Saint John Baptist on Monday next after the Feast of Saint Michael the Archangel on Monday next after the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord and on Monday next after the Feast of Annunciation of our Blessed Virgin Mary And then and there the same Governors or any Seven or more of them shall at their said Days of Meeting or such of them as the said Governor or any Seven of them shall think fit Distribute the Rents and Profits of the same Lands Tenements and Monies in such Proportions as by any Seven or more of them shall be adjudged fit (that is to say) for the Relief of Tradesmen Poor and Impotent Persons fallen into Decay within the said Township putting out poor Apprentices born there Repair the Parish Churches Repair of their Streets Causeways Bridges Alms Houses and Publick Buildings and such other Publick Uses for the good of the said Township and Inhabitants of the same as the said Governors of any seven or more of them shall think fit and direct And it is further Ordered and Decreed and Adjudged by the Commissioners aforesaid that Hugh Underwood Gent. and John Laxon be and are hereby nominated directed constituted and appointed Bailiffs and Receivers of the Rents and Profits of the said Messuage Lands Tenements and Stocks of Money until the Feast of Saint Michael the Archangel next coming and that then Yearly on Monday next after the Feast of Saint Michael the Archangel the said Governors or any seven or more of them shall nominate and Appoint two Bailiffs or Receivers of Known Ability and Integrity

and residing in the said Town of Whittlesea as well to let set and dispose of the said Messuages Lands Tenements and Stocks of Money for the Uses aforesaid for one Year next following and to collect gather and receive the Rents Issues and Profits of the same as the same shall occur for the Subsequent Year And that the said Bailiffs shall from time to time so Yearly to be nominated and Appointed to pay over said Monies so by them to be Collected in such manner as the said Governors or any seven or more of them shall by Writing under their Hands at any of their Quarterly Meetings direct and Appoint for the Uses afore-mentioned And the said Commissioners do further order Adjudge and Decree that so many of the said Trustees shall happen to depart this life or remove from the said Town of Whittlesea that there shall happen to be only five living and Remaining to Act in the Trust aforesaid That then the said Five Persons who shall be then Living shall Convey transfer and Assure all their Right Interest and Trust of and in all Lands Tenements and Stocks of Money aforesaid unto Twelve other persons of known Integrity who shall be then Inhabitants of the said Town of Whittlesea and who shall be Elected and Assigned to the Homages at their next General Court to be holden at the next General Court to be holden for the said Manors of Whittlesea Saint Marys and Whittlesea Saint Andrews aforesaid after the said Trustees shall be reduced to the Number of Five Persons as aforesaid And from and after the said Conveyances so had and Executed as aforesaid The said first Trustees shall be discharged to all intents and purposes And the said New Trustees so to be Elected and Assigned shall be and are hereby Decreed and Declared to stand to be seized and possessed of the said Messuages Lands Tenements and Stocks of Money aforesaid In Trust for the uses and intents before-mentioned as if they had been Actually and personally nominated and Assigned by this present Decree And the Commissioners do further Order and Judge and Decree that when any of the Governors aforesaid named shall happen to die or remove or dwell out of the said Town of Whittlesea or refuse to Act in the said Government That then the Surviving Governors at their next three Monthly

Meetings from and after such removal or refusal shall from time to time Elect such other Person or Persons residing within the said Township of Whittlesea To Supply his or their or any of their place or places who shall so die or refuse to Act as aforesaid which said Person to be new Elected shall have the same power to all intents and purposes as if they had been Originally Named or Assigned in this present Decree And it is further Ordered Adjudged and Decreed by the Commissioners aforesaid to the Intent the Proceedings of the Governors may appear to Posterity that the Governors or any seven or more of them for the time being shall of the Profits of the said Estate Provide a large Paper Book so often as need shall require strongly Bound up in folio which shall be called the Town Book wherein all Orders and Contracts made by them and the succeeding Governors all Elections of new Governors Bailiffs and Trustees and all other matters and things which the Governors and Feoffees for the Time being shall in pursuance of these Orders and Decrees Act and do shall be fairly Written and entered and that no such Order Contract or Election shall be of Force until the same be entered and Recorded in the said Town Book and Subscribed by the Governors or any seven or more of them and that the said Governors shall provide a Substantial Chest with three several Locks and Keys wherein already Money Town Books Feoffments Deeds Counterparts of Leaves and Writings shall be kept And that the then several Keys by three such several Persons as the Governors or any seven or more of them appoint And that the Town Bailiff for the time being do Yearly and every Year by the consent of the said Governors or any seven or more of them first had shew to the Stewards Bailiffs and Homages of the Manors of Whittlesea aforesaid the Book and Accounts and other the Proceedings of the said Governors at the two General Courts to be holden for the said Manors of Whittlesey Saint Marys and Whittlesea Saint Andrews to the end the said Steward and Homages may peruse the same if they please And the said Commissioners do further Order and Adjudge and Decree that the Charges of Prosecution and Execution of this Commission of Pious Uses and all things

necessary for completing the same shall be satisfied and Discharged by the present Town Bailiffs of the said Township of Whittlesea and of the Rents Issues and Profits of the said Messuages Lands Tenements and Stocks of Money belonging to the said Town of Whittlesea to be allowed by the Governors before Appointed or any seven or more of them and the said Governors do further Order and adjudge and Decree that the said Town Bailiffs for the said Town of Whittlesea yearly to be Elected do make as well a New Rental of all the Lands Tenements and Messuages belonging to the said Town of Whittlesea within the Decree comprized and all the Rents Issues and Profits of the same for such Year as they shall be Elected and serve in the said Office And also make a Particular Account of such Stocks of Money as shall also during the said Year to the said Township in manner as aforesaid and deliver the same Yearly at the next meeting after Saint Michael unto the said Governors or any seven or more of them to be safely kept in the Town Chest so to be provided as aforesaid for which Rentals and particulars the said Town Bailiffs shall be allowed such a Satisfaction as the said Governors or any seven or more of them shall direct and Appoint And whereas it hath evidently appeared unto us the said Commissioners that divers Parcels of Gores of Grass Lands within the limits and Bounds of the Manor and Township of Whittlesea aforesaid called by the names of the Constables Grass the Bulls Grass the Bellman's Grass Goves Grass Herds Grass Gore Grass in Eastrea Field have been anciently and appointed by the Consent and Agreement between the Lords and Tenants of the Manors of Whittlesea aforesaid (that is to say) The Constables Grass to the Constables The Bulls Grass and Boars Grass to the Constables for keeping each of them a Common Bull and Boar for the Use of the Inhabitants of the said Township The Churchwardens to the Churchwardens for the time being The Bailiffs Grass to the Bailiff of the said Town of Whittlesea for the time being And the Bell Gore to the Bellman of the said Town of Whittlesea for the time being and the Herds Grass to the several Neatherds of the several Precincts within the Manors and Townships aforesaid



for the time being Yearly and in Consideration of a Compensation and Recompence for their respective pains and Charges in the due Execution of their respective Offices And we the said Commissioners do hereby order Adjudge and Decree that the said several Parcels and Gores of Grass above-mentioned be for ever hereafter employed to the Particular Uses afore-mentioned as the same were before limited and Appointed between the Lords and Tenants of the said Manors of Whittlesea *In Witness* whereof the Commissioners first above Named to this present Decree have hereunto put their Hands and Seals the aforesaid second Day of June in the 20th Year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord Kings Charg (*sic.*) by the Grace of God of England France and Ireland King Defender of the Faith &c. and in the Year of our Lord 1668 William Colville Humphrey Orme Christopher Thursby Thomas Edwards.

**220.—The Paston Letters, No. 2.**—The letter here transcribed is found in Fenn's Paston Letters, LXX., vol. iii., p. 283. It refers entirely to events and places in the Fenland and is remarkable as being written by a Tailboys, who we must presume was a lineal descendant of Ivo Tailbois, nephew of the Conqueror, about whom some notes will be found in "The Camp of Refuge," showing, too, that the Tailboys had held their own in the Fens for some 400 years. In South Kyme church is a tomb with inscription to Gylbert Taylboys, a lord of Kyme :—

*"To my right honourable and right worshipful lord,  
my Lord Viscount Beaumont.*

"Right honourable and my right worshipful lord, I recommend me unto your good lordship with all my service, ever more desiring to hear of your prosperity and welfare, the which I pray God encrease and continue to his pleasure, and after your own heart's desire; thanking you of the good lordship that ye have showed me at all times, beseeching you alway of good continuance.

"Please it your good lordship to be remembered how afore this time Hugh Wytham\* hath said he would be in rest and peace with

\* It is notable that a person here bears the name of the river.



me, and not malign against me otherwise than law and right would ; that notwithstanding, upon Monday last past, he and three men with him came into a servant's house of mine in Boston, called William Sheriff, and there, as he sat at his work, struck him upon the head and in the body with a dagger, and wounded him sore, and pulled him out of his house, and set him in prison without any cause reasonable, or without writ, or any other process showed unto him ; and that me seems longs\* not for him to do, but as he says he is indicted, and as your good lordship knows well, I and all my servants are in like wise, but an† any man should have done it, it longs either to the sheriff or to your bailiff, as I conceive, and other cause he had none to him as far as I can know, but only for the maliciousness of that he hath unto me, nor I can think none other but it is so. And now yesternight my Lord Welles‡ came to Boston with four score horses, and in the morning following, took him out of prison, saying afore all people, 'false thief thou shalt be hanged, and as many of thy master's men as may be gotten,' as your servant John Abbott can report unto your good lordship, and hath taken him away with him to Tattershall, what to do with him I cannot say, but, as I suppose, to have him to Lincoln Castle ; wherefore I beseech your good lordship in this matter to be my good lord, and that it please your good lordship to write a letter to the keeper of the castle of Lincoln, that it liked him to deliver him out of prison under a sufficient surety had for him, for and (if) they may keep him still, by this mean, they may take all my servants that I have, and so I may do again in like wise.

"And also, as I am informed, without he be had out of prison in haste, it will be right grievous to him to heal of his hurt, he is so sore stricken ; and if there be any service that your good lordship will command me to do in this country, please it you to send me word, and it shall be done to my power with the grace of God, which have you, my right honourable and worshipful lord,

\* (belongs) † (if)

‡This was Leo, the 6th Baron Welles, killed at Towton soon after, *i.e.*, in 1461.

always in his blessed keeping. Written at Kyme, upon Wednesday next after our Lady's day, the Assumption (*15th Augt.*)

"Also, please it your good lordship to weet, after this letter was made there came a man from Tattershall into my fenn, which ought\* me good will, and because he would not be holden suspect, he spoke with women which were milking kyne, and bade them go to a priest of mine to Dokdyke,† and bid him fast go give me warning, how that my Lord Willoughby,‡ my Lord Cromwell and my Lord Welles proposed then to set a sessions, and hang the said William Sheriff, an they might bring the intent about; and so, as I and your servant John Abbott stood together, the priest came and gave me warning hereof, which I trust for my worship your good lordship would not should happen, for it were to me the greatest shame that might fall, but and it please your good lordship to write to all your servants in this country that they will be ready upon a day's warning to come when I send them word; I trust God they shall not hang him against the law, but I, with help of your good lordship, shall be able to let it.

Kyme in Lincolnshire  
Wednesday, August  
(Between 1455 and 1460  
33 and 39 Hy. VI.)

By your Servant,  
WILLIAM 'TAILBOYS.'

S. H. MILLER, Lowestoft.

\* (owed)

† (Dog-dyke)

‡ The Willoughby's, Cromwell's, and Welles' intermarried; at the time when the above letter was written there was a feud between that combination and the Lord of Kyme. These facts seem to explain the family relationships:—

The Lordship of Eresby was settled by William I. on Walter de Bec, who married Agnes, the heiress of Hugh, lord of Tattershall. Robert, 6th baron, Lord Willoughby de Eresby, left a daughter Joan by a first wife. He married Maud (the 2nd wife) who was co-heiress of Ralph, Lord Cromwell of Tattershall: there was no issue. Sir Richard Welles married Joan and was summoned to Parliament in the right of his wife, as Lord Willoughby de Eresby. This is the person named in the letter; the Lord Welles was his father. Richard Welles was treacherously murdered by Edward IV. The son, Robert Welles (8th Baron Welles) took up arms against King Edward, as we shall see in another letter. The Barony of Welles became extinct in 1503.

The last of the Pastons, William, Earl of Yarmouth, died in 1732, and leaving no male issue, the titles became extinct. His younger daughter, Rebecca, married Sir John Holland.

The Cromwells herein named were of an ancient family of Nottinghamshire.

221.—**The Underwood Family of Whittlesey.**—Mr. S. T. Aveling, of Rochester, supplies the following memoranda concerning the family of the Underwoods of Whittlesey.

Hugh Underwood—of Whittlesey in the isle of Ely Esquire, and one of the deputy lieutenants of that isle married 1st Wife, Jane 2<sup>d</sup> daughter of Sir Henry Mackworth of Normanton co. Rutland Bar<sup>t</sup> she died 17 January 1667.\* 2<sup>d</sup> Ann the thirteenth child of Sir Francis Russell of Chippenham [near Newmarket in the County of Cambridge,] by his Wife Catherine daughter and sole heir of John Wheatley, Esquire, by Elizabeth Smallpage his Wife, to whom he (Wheatley) was married at Chippenham Dec<sup>r</sup>. 19<sup>th</sup> 1631—Ann was baptized at Chippenham 14<sup>th</sup> July 1650.

By an old Minute book of the Manor of Whittlesey St. Andrew, indorsed “Anno 1726,” it appears that Hugo Underwood was Steward of that Manor at a Court holden the 10th of April, 1680.

Francis Underwood, † of Whittlesea Esq whom I suppose to be the father of Hugh Underwood of Whittlesey Esq was a great favorite of Oliver the protector, to whom he was probably known before the civil war broke out; Oliver was so pleased with his adroitness, in the surprise of, and massacre of Woodcroft Castle (between Market Deeping and Peterborough) that he gave him a commission of a captain of foot of a company consisting of 150 men. This commission is dated Dec<sup>r</sup>. 12<sup>th</sup>. 1643, [it is signed “Oliver Cromwell,”] and appears to have been granted to him by Cromwell in right of his power as Governor of the isle of Ely. Francis rose to the rank of major, colonel, and lastly lieutenant colonel; so early as June 8<sup>th</sup>. 1648, he was appointed *governor of Whittlesea and Crowland*, for he is so stiled in the thanks of parliament, signed by the speaker Lenthall, for suppressing the forces under Hudson and Stiles, which were raised to favor the royal cause.

\* This Jane, was daughter of Sir Henry Mackworth, by Mary his Wife. who was daughter of Robert Hopton, of Witham, co. of Somerset, Esq. Jane was buried in the Eastern aisle of St. Mary's Church, in Whittlesey, where the inscription on the stone was perfectly legible in 1813.

† Francis Underwood was of Jesus College, Cambridge. See the Testimonial in the possession of Thomas Moore Maydwell, of Clement's Inn, Middlesex, 1814. It is dated July 6th, 1632. Oliver, the protector, was of Sydney Sussex College, Cambridge (Noble's Memoirs, Vol. I., p. 95.

It appears by the original papers in the possession of the said Thomas Moore Maydwell, that this Francis was greatly entrusted by the commonwealth, the protectors, and the restored republic, these papers or documents consist of letters and commissions &c signed by the protector Oliver, Thurloe secretary of state, and "Valentine Walton."\* Francis Underwood was certainly a useful person to his party, but his government was odious from his severity, and by having the custody of many loyalists, and others that were suspected of being so; his name is yet remembered and reprobated in that part of the Kingdom; he was undoubtedly vindictive, and having taken some umbrage, quarrelled with secretary Thurloe; but the matter was settled by the latter's declaring he had no intention to offend him.

Francis resided in the Berristead house at Whittlesey, which house was in 1814 the property of Lord Eardley, and was rented of his Lordship by William Davie Ground who resided in it in that year.

1728 April 30<sup>th</sup>. Date of the Will of s<sup>d</sup>. Charles Fleetwood—proved in the prerog. Court of Canterbury 23 Aug<sup>t</sup>. 1737—by Ann his Wife and Sole Executrix.

*William* Underwood (who at the time of his death resided at Enfield in the County of Middlesex) was the Nephew of *Hugh* Underwood. By the settlement made on the Marriage of the said William with *Martha Bothwell*, daughter of James and Elizabeth Bothwell, and dated 29<sup>th</sup>. August 1699, certain lands in Glassmore in Whittlesey &c were settled on the said William and Martha and their Issue. This marriage took effect and the said William Underwood and Martha had Issue Male of their Bodies, but all such Issue Male died without having been marr<sup>d</sup>. They had also issue two Daughters (viz) Martha and Abigail. William Underwood made a Will which bears date 9<sup>th</sup>. April 1745 and was proved in the prerogative Court of the Archbishop of Canterbury.

\* There are also other documents of value with them (viz.):—An Historical Account (indorsed, "a Pedigree") of ye ancient family of Underwood, Jany. 1728—9. Testimonial of Francis Underwood's education at the University of Cambridge dated July 6th, 1632.

**222.—Wills of Christopher and Alice Swynscoe, Benefactors to the poor of Peterborough.**—The old parish registers of St. John's, Peterborough, supply us with the two following entries :  
 “1605-6 Chrystopher Swynscoe gentleman was buried y<sup>e</sup> 7 daye. In the margin :—“The sayd Mr. Swynscoe gave ten pounds to be bestowed upon y<sup>e</sup> poore of y<sup>e</sup> p<sup>r</sup>ish of Peterburgh w<sup>ch</sup> sume of Xl: was distrybuted unto y<sup>e</sup> sayd poore upon y<sup>e</sup> daye of his funerall as by will he had appoynted. Laus deo.” 1610-11 24 Jan. M<sup>rs</sup> Alice Swynscoe, was buried the 24 : daye. In margin—The sayd Ms<sup>rs</sup> Alice Swynscoe (was) a good benefactour to y<sup>e</sup> towne of Peterbroughe, both in y<sup>e</sup> tyme of her lyf as also at her deathe.” I am not aware that a pedigree of the family is in existence ; judging from the “gentle” families named in the two wills he was well connected.

Christopher Swynscoe, of Peterborough, co. Northampton, Gent., by will dated 30 Jan 1605-6 pr in P.C.C. 11th Mch following (Reg. 20 Stafford), bequeathed to Chas. Beverley, son of James B., which Charles (or by what other christian names he is called) is now an apprentice in the city of York, 40 mks., whereof one half to be paid the next half year after my decease and the other half the next half year, to be paid out of (my) lease at Godmanchester. To good friend Richd. Canwell some time of Everton, co. Beds., gent., 20 nobles to be paid within one half year after my dec. : should he die within that time, the bequest to revert to his nephew, Richd. Camwell, of Coln, Hunts. To Robt. Walker of Geddington, 10l ; to his brother Richd. W. 5l To Alice Vernam wife of William V. 10l To Christ. & Elizabeth Walker, children of Henry W. 5l each. To Margery Perrills children, 40s To John Swynscoe of London, which was John Swynscoe's son the parson 40s To Alexander Williams of London, 5 mks. To Elizabeth Allington wife to Hugh A. of Tinwell, co. Rutland, esq. 40s.

\* 1599-1600 M<sup>r</sup> Henry Allington bur. XXV Jan. 1611 M<sup>rs</sup> Eliz. Allington, wife to M<sup>r</sup> Hugh Allington, esquier,

\* The par. regs. of Tinwell, Rutland, supply these entries.

bur. Dec vj. 1612 M<sup>r</sup> Charles Allington & M<sup>rs</sup> Eliz. Clipole (Cleapole) mar. May XXV. In the will of James Cleypole of Northboro' als Narborrowe, co. Northampton, esq. (bur. there in the chappel adjoining to the parish church in the "toome" which I have placed there for that purpose, 14 Nov. 1599) dated 1 Dec. 1598 & pr. in P.C.C. 7 Nov. 1599 (Reg. 86 Kidd.) appoints as supervisors good brother(s) in law Henry Allington, Robt. Wingfield, & Ant. Irebie, esqs; & Edw. Heron, esq., Serjt.-at-law, all my very especial good friends and gives to each 5*l*. Adam, 2nd son of James C. (bapt. at Northboro', 20 June, 1565, d. 1634) mar. at St. Georges church, Stamford, 30 Sept. 1586. Dorothy (bur. at Northboro', 7 Nov., 1619) Wingfield, da. of John W. (who lived at the Nunnery, in the parish of St. Martin's), 2nd son of Robt W. & his wife Elizabeth (Cecil, da. of Richd C. and sister to Wm. first Baron Burghley), & entered his ped. in the Heralds Visit (Northamps) 1618—9. M<sup>r</sup> Henry Allington, a merchant in London, was, says the Lincolnshire Visit. of 1592, descended from Sir Gyles A. of Horseheath, Cambs. Knt., and settled at Grainthorpe, Lincs., in the person of his younger brother, George. Their father, George, of Rushford, Norfolk, m . . . . sister to Sir John Cheeke, Knt, a tutor to Prince Edward (subsequently King), while Mary, another sister, m. 8 Aug. 1541 (d. 22 Feb. 1542—3), Sir William Cecil, Secretary of State, & subsequently Lord Treasurer, a fact that probably accounts for their advent in Rutlands. They bore [Quarterly, 1 Sa., a bend engr. betw. 6 billets arg. 2 Gules, 3 covered cups arg. (Argentyne) 3 az., 6 martlets, 3, 2 & 1, or; a canton erm. 4 Per fesse arg. & sa., a pale counterchanged, 3 griffins' heads erased of the 2nd (Gardener); a mullet on a crescent for diff. Crest.—A talbot statant erm., with a difference as on the shield. *Harl. M.S. 1550.*] M<sup>rs</sup> Eliz Allington, wife to Hugh (elder brother of Henry and George named above) was the first wife of Robt. Wingfield, of Upton, Northamptonshire, esq. (bur. at Castor, 2 Apl. 1580).

Hugh's will dated 2 Oct. 1616 pr 1 Oct. 1618 in P.C.C. (Reg. 94 Meade) in which he designates himself as Hugh

Alington of Tynwell, co. Rutland, esq. & desires to be bur. in that church, or where his exor. shall think good. The parish registers of Tinwell do not record his burial there. Testator names sons (? brothers) in-law, John Wingfield, Adam Cleypoole, Richd. Wingfield, & Calibute Downinge, & my cousins Peter Chapman, & John Browne, of Stamford, esqs.; Sir Giles A. (Knted at the Charterhouse 11 May, 1603), &c., &c. Peter Chapman of the City of London, Knted at Hatton-house, London, 8 Nov. 1617, in his will dated 22 Apl. pr. 17 May 1622 (*Reg. Saville* 48) refers to a lease of his farm or manor house & lands in Tynwell, names cousin Geo. Allington, &c. In the probate act book testator is designated as late of the parish of St. Clement Danes, co. Middlesex. M<sup>r</sup> Charles Allington, whose marriage is recorded at Tinwell was the eldest son of Geo. A. (d. 1633) of Swinhope, co. Linc., esq. To M<sup>rs</sup> Jane Allington, wife to George A., of Louth, co. Lincoln, esq., 40s. To M<sup>rs</sup> Mary Reede, of Ringstead, co. Norfolk, widow, 40s. To Katherine, wife of John Allington, of London, 20s. To Katherine, wife of Medcalf Allington, of London, 20s. Richard Rop my servant shall have my stock of hemp & my close at Ravely for the years yet to come 10*l*. better cheap than any other man. To cousin M<sup>r</sup> Gregory Downhall, of London, 5 mks. To cousin M<sup>r</sup> William Downhall, of London, 40s. To John Cley servant to John Dickinson of Peterboro', Baker, 4*l*. To Thos. Stubbolde my pasture keeper, 20s. To Mrs. Dorothy Downhall, wife of William D., gent., 20s. To Cath. Curtis, Elizabeth Edward, M<sup>rs</sup> Frances Dove, to each an angel. To cousin Willm. Block & his mother of Ramsey, 10s. each. To John Plumbe & John Daves my servants, 40s. each. To my well-beloved friend and cousin M<sup>r</sup> William Downhall my woods lying in Hoome (Holme) co. Hunts. containing by estimation about 40a., the one called great Hoome wood & the other little Hoome wood (held by lease of the King's Majesty) for the remainder of the term, also in consideration of his being a good friend to my wife after my decease as I know he will be. I give him the title that he and I held by virtue of a lease in Stanground, co. Hunts, for the years yet to come. To the poor of Ramsey

50*l.* to be paid into the hands of Walter Creede, William Wayne & to M<sup>r</sup> Hales & to such chiefest & substantialist men of the parish as they shall choose, to be paid them at Lammas next, charging them as they will answer it (to) Almighty God at the dreadful day of judgment that they do imploy the same to some benefit for the use of the poor ; & the increase & benefit thereon to be bestowed amongst the poor people of Ramsey allways in Lent for their best relief so long as the world endureth. To Alice my wife all my annuities, the lease in North Wytham, co. Lincoln, held of Sir Henry Pagnam (Pakenham, d. 27 Meh 1620, ancestor of the noble family of that name—Earls of Longford in the peerage of Ireland and of the present Marchioness of Exeter), Knt & of my demesnes in Hooe, ordains her full executrix & residuary legatee. To M<sup>r</sup> Wm. Downhall my book of Martyrs. Appoints M<sup>r</sup> Hugh & M<sup>r</sup> Geo. Allington supervisors giving to each 5 mks. To M<sup>r</sup> Todd of Huntingdon, my best nag, & to M<sup>r</sup> Creed 5 mks. To the poor folk of Peterboro' 10*l.* to be paid at my funeral, & to the poor alms folk in the Churchyard 20*s.*

JUSTIN SIMPSON, Stamford.

*To be continued.*

**223.—Parson Drove.**—Of this scattered village little has been written or appears to be known. It is said "Happy the country that has no history." If so, this is most surely a fortunate place. Nothing appears to have been placed on record to make or mar the happiness of anyone. There stands the old Church, verging on decay, and in its precincts the rude forefathers of the hamlet sleep. Stones, carefully kept, mark the resting place of families that have passed away.

Stukeley speaks of "A Roman road passing over the river above Wisbech town towards Guyhirn Chappel then went to Trokenholt and Clows Cross there entering Lincolnshire, from thence that it went in a straight line to Spalding." At Gedney Hill Roman coins have been found. The High Dole in the same parish is a square doubly moated, where ancient foundations have been dug up and Roman coins found ; another like square is in the parish



of Sutton St. Edmunds, about two miles from the Southea Bank. In Parson Drove is a Mound or Tumulus, which has probably a like origin, while about two miles distant, at Tholomas Drove, a great number of Roman coins have been found within the last few years, which seem to indicate a line of road to March, where it would connect with another Roman road which crossed the fens from the high lands at Eldernell to those of West Norfolk.

The derivation of the name Parson Drove needs little more than a passing remark. Among the droves, dykes, or ways in the parish of Leverington, which in the distant past bore a marked resemblance to each other, this was Parsons Drove where the Chapel stood. The priest dwelt here, or it might be from a person of position or influence in the district named Parsons that it was so called. Dugdale in 16, Hen. vi. 1438 and 13, Eliz. 1571 speaks of "Parsons Drove end between Bellymill Brigge and Meys Brigge." A chantry founded at Fitton Hall in the reign of Edward III. (1330) by John Hode, then Lord of the Manor, and Martin de Holbeche, was transferred in (38, Hen. vi.) 1459 by permission of Bishop Grey to a Chapel then built at Parson Drove, now dedicated to St. John the Baptist. As a reason for the transfer, it is stated in an old document, that "the way and passage to and from Leverington was troublesome and dangerous in the time of winter."

Pepys in his diary under date Sept. 17, 1663, refers to Parson Drove in the following terms:—"With much ado through the fens along dykes where sometimes we were ready to have our horses sink to the belly we got by night with a great deal of stir and hard riding to Parsons Drove—a heathenish place. I was bit cruelly by the gnats."

In Nov. 1698, 11 of Will. III., an Inquisition was held at Wisbech, when agreeable to the Act 43 of Elizabeth, it was found that a messuage and several parcels of land and pasture in Leverington Parson Drove, Leverington St. Leonard's, and Wisbech, containing 141 acres, and another 11a. 3r. 0p. of land, lately allotted by virtue of a Drainage Act, with the appurtenances were held in trust for maintaining a curate or chaplain for per-

forming divine rites and services and for repairing and upholding the Chapel.

There was anciently a hermitage in the parish at a place that still bears the name of Trockenholt. Trockenholt is mentioned in very early times. Wulphere, King of Mercia, in his Charter for the endowments and privileges of the monastery of Medehamptstead (Peterboro') A.D. 664, names Trockenholt as one of the boundaries of the estate. After being over run by the Danes it lay desolate 111 years. It was given by Nigellus, Bishop of Ely, to the Abbey of Thorney in 1169. It is then mentioned as a hermitage which had formerly belonged to Ely. In a very ancient letter that Church is said to have enjoyed it 191 years; on its site a very respectable modern farm house now stands. There are no remains of antiquity in the neighbourhood. When excavating foundations some years ago, human remains were found.

Near this place is Clows Cross, at the junction of the North Level Drains, where the Fen waters are discharged into the North Level Main Drain from the New South Eau and New Wryde. It has always been a point of importance from the earliest times, and here was formerly a stone cross, but whether to mark the division of the Counties of Lincoln and Cambridge, or to indicate its other importance, is unknown.

Quoting from Atkyn's report on the Level made in 1618, "There stood upon the Bank of Southeac a cross designing the limits of Cambridgeshire and Lincoln in that part of the inland, and from that cross eastward there passed a watercourse through the inlands to the sea bank to a Gote or Clow called the Shire-Gote dividing still the Shires. At the head of this watercourse there was also a Clow from which Clow and the cross standing hard by it. The place took the name, viz.: The Clows Cross. This Clow (as most men deemed) served specially to take water out of the Southeac into the inland grounds in dry years, as well for the preservation of the partition and fence on both sides, as for the relief and succour of both man and beast. Many have talked that they have heard that much of the waters of the

Fenns drayned that way and of great large watergates and wide passages there. I myself was by when the old pipes were taken up about 22 years since (1596) and observed that there were only two small pipes of plank layed together through the bank to take in water, not exceeding 18 inches square as I could guess."

At that time (1618) a stone sluice was being made at a cost of £200 or more, to be finished in the following May, besides which the banks and channels below the Clow were to be enlarged and improved. It should be borne in mind that Parson Drove Fen was not drained then. The country about Thorney is described as "A more *Lerna*, surrounded with water, and serving only for fish and fowl, without any other benefit to the public; the rest of the Level is near of the same condition, and go all under the name of the '*High Fenne*.'" In 19, Hen. III. (1234-5), it is spoken of as Heye Fen, belonging to the manor of Wysebeche, and to the towns of Leverington, &c. By a decree of Sewers, dated March 25, 1653, this Fen with others were adjudged to be fully drained; whereupon the Earl of Bedford and his participants took possession of the 95,000 acres awarded them, which from that time have been subject to a perpetual tax for drainage purposes. This Tax is known as the Adventurers' Tax, and these Lands as Adventurers' Lands, to the present day.

In 1437, the country around suffered from a disastrous event. The *High Fen Dyke* (Murrow Bank) gave way, owing to the pressure of the fresh water from the west or High Fen side, which made so great a breach that nearly 12,000 acres of land in Wisbech, Leverington, Newton, and Tydd, are said to have been overflowed and drowned. The breach in the bank here referred to is said to be the great Gull between Guyhirne and Murrow, which is still a considerable piece of water.

In 1571, the sea banks were unable to withstand a violent storm. Of the devastating effects of this flood, Holinshed gives a doleful account, in which he states "the villages of Guihorne, Parson Drove, and Hobhouse were overflowed; that large quantities of cattle and sheep were lost." In 1613, a very violent

storm is recorded to have taken place on the 1st of November, which caused considerable damage in the district. The chancel of Parson Drove Church is said to have been washed down by one of these floods which devastated the district, and has not since been re-built. Its foundations and pavement have been found in digging graves. The Communion table itself is said to have been lost at the same time, and found by the present vicar many years ago in the kitchen of the village inn.

John Bend, of Wisbech-Murrow, yeoman, by his will, dated 1593, gave certain lands to the use of the poor in Wisbech-Murrow, Tholomas Drove, and Leverington Parson Drove. He therein declared that he had made a feoffment and willed a cottage and 16 acres in Leverington Parson Drove, to similar uses, viz. : for the poor of Parson Drove. This land lies in south Inham field ; with it is comprised the public-house, now known as the Butchers' Arms. By the enclosure of Parson Drove Fen an allotment of 7 acres was added to the above, which with 2 acres of land in Leverington Marsh make 25 acres in all. The rents of the above, according to an order made early in the century, were paid yearly, on every New Year's day, to such poor belonging to the parish as had resided therein without receiving any parochial relief for the space of six years last past, according to the donor's will.

The inhabitants enclosed a piece of land from the waste early in the century, the rent of which was formerly applied towards the support of a master to teach poor children to read and write. Of this school the late C. D. Weight was master for many years. By a scheme approved by the Charity Commissioners in 1873 for the administration of the above, now vested in trustees, of whom the Rector of Parson Drove (Rev. Fred. Jackson, M.A.), and the Vicar of Southsea-cum-Murrow (Rev. A. W. Roper), for the time being shall be ex-officio. The first non-official trustees were as follows : Thomas Johnson, Joseph Waltham, Cole Kimberley, Richard Gunn, Samuel Nichols, George Knowles, and John Warner, all of Parson Drove, farmers ; Joseph Kingerley, of Peterboro' ; William Marshall and George Green Cobley, both of

Parson Drove. For the year ending Jan., 1890, after paying to 8 poor persons an aggregate sum of £12, and all expenses incidental to the management of the Charities, there then remained £83 12s. 8d. to be dealt with. This was divided into three equal parts. The first was applied, in accordance with the scheme, towards promoting Elementary Education in Parson Drove, by grants to the School Board, and scholarships of not more than £5 each to deserving boys and girls of not less than 12 years of age, being children of poor inhabitants of Parson Drove. One other third part was applied to the benefit of the most deserving necessitous poor of Parson Drove, of whom 94 received small donations. The remaining one-third was granted to Clothing Clubs, Peterborough Infirmary, and 31 recipients for emergencies, who received an aggregate sum of £15 15s. Great changes were made by the Leverington Rectory Act, "a Bill for making better provision for the cure of souls within the limits of the parish of Leverington and certain adjacent parishes, all in the County of Cambridge, in the Diocese of Ely, 33 and 34 Vic., 1870." By this Act four new parishes were formed principally out of the Parish of Leverington. Leverington Parson Drove was divided into two, Southsea-cum-Murrow and Parson Drove, both under the sole patronage of the Bishop of Ely. The Rev. F. Jackson, the curate or chaplain of the Church or Chapel of Parson Drove, after the passing of this Act, became the first Incumbent of the new parish, on which the trusts of the Parson Drove Chapel land ceased, and it became glebe vested in the Incumbent and his successors.

A writer in the Wisbech Deanery Magazine, February, 1887, "A fenman himself and proud of the distinction," notices the difficulties which many of the Incumbents have met with in finding and retaining gentlemen in the various fenland curacies. One complains of the damp relaxing atmosphere, another twinges from rheumatism and ague, unknown among the hills and vales (although ague has been of rare occurrence in the fens since the present perfect system of drainage in the Level was completed). The dreary outlook and unsheltered waste around him was another

grievance, while again we hear the lack of cultured society deplored by persons very hard up for an excuse in these days of cheap travelling. But what do the registers of this typical fen parish reveal? From the following list of its Incumbents, that four gentlemen should hold the vicarage 200 years is marvellous, we could imagine it would beat the record of any parish in the most salubrious county in Britain.

The following names occur in the Register :—

1657. Richard Edwards was approved Register (most probably the curate in charge) and took the oaths according to the act ; in that case lately made and provided. A Richard Edwards was buried January 26, 1658.

1678. September. Anthony ffawcett Cler : was buried the 9th day.

Below an entry 25 of June 1678 is a note ("old curate's last entry") "Peter Pindar of Jesus College Cambridge curate of Parson Drove. Aprilis Anno Domini 1679." He signed the register with his churchwardens in 1689.

Henry Pujolas (an evicted Houguenot) was appointed 1692. He died 1749, aged 98. He therefore held the vicarage 57 years.

John Dickinson was appointed 1749. Died 1790. He held it 41 years.

Richard Pollard appointed 1793. He died in 1842 and was buried at Bath. He held it 49 years.

The last three were not fenmen, therefore not inured to the climate.

Frederic Jackson, M.A., was appointed the first week in January, 1844. He became partially paralysed January 3rd, 1891, but now somewhat recovered he is able to re-visit his church, in the ministrations of which he claims never to have missed a Sunday in 43 years.

S. EGAR.

*To be continued.*

224.—**Annals of Peakirk.**—The following circumstances, which deserve to be recorded in the annals of Peakirk, are reported in the *Stamford Mercury* of May 26th, 1822.

“On Sunday night last, at Peakirk, near Market Deeping, John

Tyers and his sister, upwards of 70 years of age, were robbed of 120*l.* in cash, all they possessed, being the money they had received a few days before for a common-right, which they had just sold. Four men entered their house in the night by breaking the window frame. The old man defended himself as long as he was able, but was at last over-powered and held down. The robbers pulled his sister out of bed by the hair of her head, and stole the sheets upon which she had been lying, also some bacon and several other articles. The climax of this frightful outrage is, that the sister, through despondency from the loss she had suffered, drowned herself on Monday evening last, in the North Meadow Drain in the parish of Peakirk, and was found dead on the following morning, in a situation where the water was not more than 12 inches in depth. An inquest on the body was held on Wednesday, at the Wheat Sheaf at Ginton, by Wm. Hopkinson, Gent., coroner for the hundred of Nassaburgh, and after a full investigation of the circumstances a verdict of lunacy was returned. The unfortunate woman was upwards of 80 years of age, and resided with her brother. It is believed that the aged pair, bereaved of their intellects through a too acute feeling of their loss and the treatment they had suffered, agreed to go together and drown themselves, and that it was only by the accidental company of neighbours on Monday night that the poor old man was prevented from joining his sister to execute their mutual fatal purpose! The cottage in which they lived is situated in the North Fen of Peakirk: the robbers forced the door from the hinges, but were afterwards manfully resisted by John Tyers for nearly half an hour, during which time they threw two large stones and a piece of wood at him, and struck him repeatedly on the breast with a long pole. Having at length driven him into a corner, they overpowered him, tied his hands, and plundered the cottage of a variety of articles. There is the strongest reason to believe that the robbers reside in the neighbourhood, for when the old man, finding all resistance useless, asked them as a favor to put an end to his existence, one of them said, 'No, John, you are a harmless old man, we will not hurt you.'

**225.—A Deodand at Helpstone.**—Can anyone point to the time when the custom ceased of laying deodands upon cattle, implements, &c., which had been the means of causing a human death. I find in an old newspaper an instance of these deodands as late as July, 1822, at Helpstone. The circumstances were reported as under :—

“On Tuesday last an inquest was held, at the Bell Inn, Helpstone, by Mr. Hopkinson, coroner for the soke of Peterboro’, upon view of the body of John Price, aged 12 years, in the service of Mr. Knowlton of that place, who on the preceding afternoon was killed upon the spot by the overturning of a cart, which he was driving without any reins to guide the horses. A man in the cart, named Robet Oliver, was also severely wounded and had several ribs broken ; and two other lads in the cart had a narrow escape. The law cannot be too severely enforced against those persons who daily, at the peril of their own and others’ lives, are seen driving carelessly upon the public roads. In the present case, a deodand of 20s. was laid upon the cart.”

S. W. H.

**226.—Where the Battle of Stamford was Fought.**—I purposed, at first, merely to quote another of the *Paston Letters* which refer to events connected with the Fenland, but further consideration and research led me to the conclusion that a few notes and remarks are necessary to explain some points in the letter and to show where the Battle of Stamford was fought.

The *Chronicle of the Rebellion in Lincolnshire, 1470*, is found in the Camden Society’s Miscellany, Vol. I., and is set forth as “A Remembrance of suche actez and dedez as our souveraigne lorde the King hadde doon in his journey begonne at London the vi. day of March in the X yere of his moost . . . . reigne, for the repression and seting down of the rebellyon and insurrection of his subgettes in the Shire of Lincolne, commeaved by the subtil and fals conspiracie of his grete rebellez George duc of Clarence, Richarde erle of Warrewike, and othere, ect.”

Now, the Lincolnshire forces were led by Sir Robert Welles (who was much enraged by the death of his father, Lord Welles).



The pedigree shows that Sir Robert was a second cousin of the Earl of Warwick. The principal estates of the Welles family were the manors of Hellowe, Aby, Welle, and Alford.

Sir Robert Welles mustered his forces at Ranby, about 15 miles west of Alford, and 7 miles north of Horncastle. "The battle was fought 'at Empyngnam, in a felde called Hornefelde.' The place where it was fought, about 5 miles north-west of Stamford, near the road to York, retains the name of *Bloody Oaks* to this day. We are told that some of the Lancastrians who fled from the battle threw off their coats, that they might not be encumbered by them in their flight; and that the field called *Losecotefield*, between Stamford and Little Casterton, which by tradition, has been fixed upon as the field of battle, received its name from that circumstance. Perhaps that was the place where some of them were severely pressed by their pursuers."

Blore's *His. of Rutland*, 1811, p. 142.

The night after the battle the King slept at Stamford, and the next day marched northwards as the following letter shows. (Letter XXXII., vol. ii., p. 37., Fenn's *Paston Letters*.)

"To my cousin, *John Paston*."

"The King came to Grantham, and there tarried Thursday all day. There was headed Sir Thomas Delalaunde and one John Neille, a great captain; and upon the Monday next after that at Doncaster, and there was headed Sir Robert Welles and another great captain; and then the King had word that the Duke of Clarence and the Earl of Warwick was at Easterfield (? Chesterfield), twenty miles from Doncaster; and upon the Tuesday, at nine of the bell, the King took the field, and mustered his people; and it is said, that were never seen in England so many goodly men and so well arrayed in a field; and my lord was worshipfully accompanied, no lord there so well, (? by Duke of Norf.); wherefore the King gave my lord a great thank.

"And than the Duke of Clarence and the Earl of Warwick heard that the King was coming to themward, incontinent (? immediately) they departed and went to Manchester in Lanca-

shire, hoping to have had help and succour of the Lord Stanley ; but in conclusion there they had little favour, as it was informed the King ; and so men say they went westward, and some men deem to London.

“ And when the King heard they were departed and gone, he went to York, and came thither the Thursday next after, and there came into him all the gentlemen of the shire ; and upon our Lady-day, made Percy, Earl of Northumberland, and he that was earl afore Marquis Montague ; and so the King is purposed to come southward ; God send him good speed.

“ Written the 27<sup>th</sup> day of March.

Tuesday, 27<sup>th</sup> of

March, 1470

10 E. IV.

FOR TROWYTH.”

(Name of writer not given.)

“ The Confession ” of Sir Robt. Welles is given in p. 21, Vol. I. Camden Socy. Mis., as from *Excerpta Historia*, 1831.

S. H. MILLER, Lowestoft.

**227.—Stocks and Whipping Posts.**—In reply to the query in Part IX., No. 197, I may mention that there is a pair of stocks on wheels, and in tolerably good preservation, at Soham, but I do not know their date.

J. R. OLORENSHAW.

**228.—Monumental Inscriptions in St. John's Church, Peterborough.**—The following transcript of Monumental Inscriptions in St. John's Church, Peterborough, was taken in August, 1891.

CHANCEL.

J. R. T.

1.

Near this place | are interred the remains of | Matthew Wyldbore Esqr | son of John Wyldbore Esqr and | Elizabeth his wife, he was born | in this city and received his | education at Trinity college | in Cambridge | He was a person | of an excellent understanding | had good talents for | every kind of publick business, | and was many years a very useful member | of the Hon<sup>ble</sup> Corporation | of the Great Level of the Fens. | He had the honour of representing | in two succeeding parliaments this his native city | and discharged the important trust | with integrity, ability, and

uniformity | He bore a long illness | with great fortitude and  
resignation | and died much lamented | by his relatives and  
friends | on the fifteenth day of March 1781 | aged 65 years.

## 2.

Near this place | lie interr'd the remains | of Charles Balguy  
M.D. | a man of strict integrity | various & great learning | and  
of distinguished eminence | in his profession which | He exercised  
through a course | of many years in this city | He died March  
y<sup>c</sup> 2<sup>d</sup> 1767 | aged 59 years.

## 3.

In Memory of | Thomas Warriner, Gent. | late a native of this  
city | and one of its ancient inhabitants. | Reader | think not his  
example uninstructive | whose happy old age and affluence |  
Opened those affections—upon others | which they often contract  
upon ourselves | —in Hospitality to his friends | and liberality to  
the Indigent | He died the 15<sup>th</sup> of March | A.D. 1767 Æt. 80. |  
In Memory of | Tho<sup>s</sup> Warriner, Gent. | (nephew to the above |  
Tho<sup>s</sup> Warriner Gent) | who dep: this life July the 29. 1777 |  
Also M<sup>rs</sup> Ann Warriner | his wife dep: this life | December the  
10. 1780 | in the 43<sup>d</sup> year | of her age. | Mary Ann | daughter  
of William Loftus, clerk | and Mary Ann his wife | (daughter of  
Thomas and Ann Warriner) | died May 16. 1815 | aged 12 years.

## 4.

To | the memory | of | Edward Laxton gent. | whose remains  
| are interred in the cathedral | burial ground | Beneath | this  
tablet lies | Mary Laxton | wife of the above | obt. 23<sup>d</sup> January  
1799 | Æt. 63.

## 5.

Near this place lie the bodies of | John Wyldbore Esq<sup>r</sup> | and  
Elizabeth his wife | He was many years an able and | useful  
magistrate of this liberty | and died on the 27<sup>th</sup> day | of Oct<sup>r</sup>. 1755  
aged 88 years | He married Elizabeth daughter of | Noah Neale  
of Stamford in the | County of Lincoln Esq<sup>r</sup> | A woman of great  
piety, charity | and humility who died on the | thirtieth day of  
May 1748 | aged sixty seven years | They had several children |  
three of whom survived them | Frances wife of Henry Southwell

| of Wisbeach in the county of | Cambridge Esq<sup>r</sup> Elizabeth wife  
of | Robert Curtis of Stamford Esq<sup>r</sup> | and Matthew to whose  
memory the | opposite monument is erected.

6.

Underneath | are deposited the remains | of Thomas Sambrook  
gent. | who dep. this life Dec the 3rd 1759 | Also Elizabeth his  
wife | who dep. this life Feb the 1st 1774 | And also of Mary  
Sambrook | their daughter | who dep. this life Jan the 26<sup>th</sup> 1795  
| and at whose desire | and sole expence | this monument is  
erected.

## CHANCEL FLOOR.

7.

M<sup>r</sup> T. Fisher | Aet. 54 | Obt 12 Sep<sup>r</sup> | 1807.

8.

Walden Orme Esq<sup>r</sup> | Died the 26<sup>th</sup> of November 1774.

9.

Here lyeth the body of | M<sup>rs</sup> Anne Squire | who died the 8<sup>th</sup> of  
Novem<sup>r</sup> 1751 | aged 35 years | Also Elizabeth their daughter |  
who died the 21<sup>st</sup> of August 1750 | aged 5 years | And also Ann  
their daughter | who died the 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1756 | in the 13<sup>th</sup> year  
of her age.

10.

In memory of | Hester the wife of | Humphrey Orme Esq<sup>r</sup> |  
who died the 14<sup>th</sup> of Decem<sup>r</sup> 1744 | in the 48<sup>th</sup> year of her age  
| Charles Orme | died the 24<sup>th</sup> Sep<sup>r</sup> 1792 | aged 26 years.

11.

Here lyeth the body of | John Eldred Esq<sup>r</sup> who | died the 7<sup>th</sup>  
of December 1763 | in the 73rd year of his age | Also of Mary  
his wife | who died Feb 21<sup>st</sup> 1756 | aged 84.

12.

To the memory of | John Filley who died Dec. the 18. 1794 |  
in the 64<sup>th</sup> year of his age. | Also | Mary the relict | of John  
Filley | who died Aug. 3rd 1817 | aged 75 years.

13.

Mat.<sup>v</sup> Wyldbore | 1781.

## 14.

In memory of | Rebecca Man | Relict of | William Man | and  
 dau. of Abraham & | Catherine Delarue | who died February 1st  
 1774 | in the 33 [qry. 35] year of her age | Also Thomas son | of  
 W<sup>m</sup> & Rebecca Man | who died Dec 13<sup>th</sup> 1818 | In the 71 year  
 of his age.

## 15.

Here lyeth the body of | James Delarue Esqr | who departed  
 this life Decemb<sup>r</sup> | the 20<sup>th</sup> 1737 aged 62 years. | Near this place  
 lies Lot | the son of James Delarue jun<sup>r</sup> | gent. and Sarah his  
 wife who | died March the 30<sup>th</sup> 1739 | aged 4 months. | Also near  
 this place | lies Ann Male their dau<sup>r</sup> | died Dec the 28<sup>th</sup> 1767 |  
 aged 1 year and 3 months.

## 16.

Near this place are interred | the remains of M<sup>rs</sup> Mary Dorset,  
 | Daughter of the Rev. D<sup>r</sup> Neve | sometime rector of Alwalton |  
 & Archdeacon of Huntingdon | who died March 3<sup>d</sup> 1762 | aged  
 36 | Here the weary are at rest | And also near the body of her  
 beloved | Niece are deposited the remains of | M<sup>rs</sup> Jane La Comte  
 who died | May 31st 1766 aged 78. | I am come to my grave in a  
 full age | like as a shock of corn cometh in, | in his season. | And  
 in the same grave | lyeth the remains of | M<sup>rs</sup> Ann Rowell | who  
 departed this life | Feb. 17<sup>th</sup> 1776 | aged 72 years.

## NAVE, WEST WALL.

## 17.

In a vault | behind this monument are deposited | the remains  
 of Ann Pulvertoft widow | and sister of the late | James Delarue  
 Esqr | She died April 12, 1788 | aged 81 years | Also | Beneath  
 lie interred John Pulvertoft | her son | who died April 27 1786 |  
 aged 56 years | And Mary his widow | who died April 14, 1790  
 | aged 60 years.

## 18.

In a vault | behind this are deposited | the remains of Sarah  
 wife of the late | James Delarue Esqr | She died May 22, 1757. |  
 In the same place lie interred | Sarah his sister who died 13 March  
 | 1765 | and James Delarue Esqr his son | who died 8 March  
 1780 | He himself having sometime survived | the much lamented

part of his family above named | At length followed and lies interred with them | To whose memory in his life time he expressed | an intention of raising this monument | which his executors | have caused to be erected | He died 12 March 1782 | full of years and | truly respectable.

## 19.

Beneath this marble | lyeth the body of Mary Cox | wife of M<sup>r</sup> Thomas Cox surgeon | daughter of James Delarue Sen<sup>r</sup> Esq<sup>r</sup> | and relict of M<sup>r</sup> Robert Freeman, merchant | who departed this life September 19, 1763 | Also M<sup>r</sup> Thomas Cox, surgeon | He having discharged the duties of his | profession upwards of 50 years | with great fidelity and success | Departed this life July 20, 1788 | He received his instructions from William Chiselden Esq<sup>r</sup> and was | strongly recommended to the city | by D<sup>r</sup> Mead, Sir Edward Wilmot, | and D<sup>r</sup> Jurin.

## 20.

Near this place are | deposited the remains of Elizabetha | Maria Editha wife of Robert Freeman Esq<sup>r</sup> | as a kind friend and affectionate wife, her | memory must ever be dear to those she has left | to lament her loss, her christian piety | enabled her to support her last moments with | a resignation & firmness of mind, felt only | by the truly good, with a trust in God | and a comfortable expectation of a | happy futurity, she departed | this life April 17, 1795 | aged 65 years | Also | in the same vault | lie interred the remains of | Robert Freeman Esq<sup>r</sup> whose | great liberality endeared him when living | to a large circle of friends & now departed | will cause his name to be long and | deservedly lamented | He died April 9<sup>th</sup> 1805 | aged 79 years.

## NAVE AISLE.

## 21.

Underneath this marble | lies interred the remains of | Lieut. Henry Clarke | who departed this life | July the 29<sup>th</sup> 1773. | Also M<sup>rs</sup> Mary Clarke | relict of Henry Clarke | and daughter of John Rowell Esq<sup>r</sup> | who departed this life July the 28<sup>rd</sup> 1795 | aged 39 years. | Near them lie two of their sons | John Clarke

died May the 3<sup>d</sup> 1767 | John Rowell Clarke | died Aug<sup>r</sup> the 31<sup>st</sup> 1771 | and in the same grave with her dear | and tender parents lies Ann Clarke | who died Decem<sup>r</sup> the 8<sup>th</sup> 1772. | All aged 7 months.

## 22.

In memory of | Susannah Ashton relict of | Philip Ashton who died | the 28<sup>th</sup> of October 1768 | aged 74 years. | Also Capel Berrow their grandson | and son of Richard & Mary Berrow | died the 23<sup>rd</sup> of April 1761 | aged 18 years. | Also of Susanna | their granddaughter and daughter of Richard & Mary Berrow | and wife of Thos. Baxter Aveling | of Wisbech | who died April y<sup>e</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> 1775 | aged 29 years.

## 23.

Under this marble | are deposited the remains | of Mr Richard Beaty | who departed this life | the 12<sup>th</sup> day of December | 1785 aged 75 years.

## 24.

Here lieth the body of | Christopher Peak | a member of the society | of Cliffords Inn London | who died the 27<sup>th</sup> day of March 1775 | in the 22<sup>nd</sup> year of his age | a gentleman of very promising | Abilities and greatly lamented | by all who had the pleasure | of his acquaintance | And also the body of | Christopher Hobson Esqr | of Stirtloe in Huntingdonshire | one of the Rulers of the Society | of Cliffords Inn, London | who died Jan 10<sup>th</sup> 1791 | in the 77<sup>th</sup> year of his age | A gentleman possessing those | christian qualities | as to make his death | greatly lamented by all | His friends & Acquaintance.

## 25.

In memory of | Feast Goodman | who departed this life the 8 of May | 1784 aged 73 years | Also Mary his wife | who departed this life the 31<sup>st</sup> of Aug. | 1780 aged 63 years.

## 26.

[Brasses.]—In memory of | Susanna the wife of | Brian Betham surgeon | and daughter of | Richard & Elizabeth Bothway | who departed this life | November 27, 1778 | aged 32 years | Also of | the said Brian Betham | who departed this life | September 21,

1808 | aged 76 years | Also of | Will<sup>m</sup> Tarrant Betham, surgeon | their eldest son who died at La Valetta, Malta | Jan 13, 1802 aged 28 years | and was there buried. || In memory of | Mr Rich<sup>d</sup> Bothway | who departed this life | 25<sup>th</sup> September 1779 | aged 74 years. | Also | Mr<sup>r</sup> Eliz<sup>th</sup> Bothway | his widow | who departed this life | 29<sup>th</sup> March 1788 | aged 80 years. || In memory of | Susanna the wife of | Brian Betham surgeon | and daughter of | Joseph & Susanna Ainsworth | who departed this life | April 17, 1763 | aged 29 years | Also of | Elizabeth Bothway, spinster | daughter of | Richard and Elizabeth Bothway | who departed this life | Dec 2, 1829 | aged 85 years.

*To be continued.*

**229.—Soham Residents in the 16th Century.**—I venture to suggest that the first three names in No. 193, viz., Edward Barnes, John Cropley, and Henrie Seaman, are those of residents in Soham. I made one or two unsuccessful attempts to find this list of contributors, and am glad Mr. Simpson has published it. I am led to think the three above-mentioned persons were resident in Soham, partly because the names were common there in the 16th century, and partly because of their being followed by the name of a "Fordham" person. The names of *E. Barnes* and *J. Cropley* are mentioned in my notes on Soham.

J. R. OLORENSHAW, Bury St. Edmunds.

**230.—Curious Funeral at Lynn.**—In a newspaper published July, 1822, the following account of a curious funeral at Lynn is given :—

"Saturday se'nnight, William Coward, aged 85 ; he was for 54 years clerk of the parish of St. Margaret, Lynn, and his faithful and attentive discharge of the duties of the office rendered him universally respected. He was borne to the grave by six grave-diggers, his pall supported by six parish clerks, and was attended by the two parish clerks of the town, together with the four sextons in their gowns."

S. W. H.



231.—**The Brownes of Walcot, in the parish of Barnack, co. Northampton.** (Part X., No. 213).—George Quarles, of Ufford, husband of Isabel (or Margaret) Browne, was grandson & heir of William Q. & Amy his wife, da. of . . . . Plumstead, co. Norfolk. George, auditor to Hen. 7 & 8, had 2 sons & 2 daus., viz. : Francis, his heir, (bur. at Ufford 28 Nov. 1570) ; 2 John, draper of London (d. 12 Nov., 1577, bur. in the church of St. Peter the poor, London) ; 1 Alice wife of Wm. Cope, of Aston, Oxfords, & 2 Dorothy, m. Matt. Cornaschall. (George Q. of Ufford, esq., by will dated 10 June 1535 (Lans. M.S. 991 Br. Mus.) desires body to be buried in the church of Ufford before the ymage of the holye Trinyte & that myne executours shall by an honest grave stone to be laid upon my grave, & shall cause a sculpture of me & Margaret my wife to be graven in a place upon the said grave stone w<sup>th</sup> an epitaphye for the remembrance of our soules. To the hie aulter of Bernacke for tithes forgotten vjs viijd ; to the reparations of the churche of Ufford, iij s iiijd. My executors to distribute on the day of sepulture 7<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> days vj l xiijs iiijd amongst poor people. Son, Francis, exor., Robt. Wyngfeld (Helpstone), John Plumsted, & Henry Lacy (Stamford) supervisors, & gives to each a good gelding.) Robt. Brown, the elder son of Walcot, one of the privy council to Hen. 8, m. Elizabeth, da. of Sir Edw. Palmer of Angmering, Sussex, & is said to have left, with a younger son, John, of Welley, Wilts., a successor, Robt., of Walcot, who espoused Margaret dau. & heiress of Phillip Barnard, of Aldenham, & relict of Sir Barnard Whetstone, of Woodford-row, Essex, by whom he left a son & heir, Sir William, who d. in 1603. John Brown, of Northboro', esq., d. 12 Mch 1559–60, & according to I.P.M. (*State papers, Domestic series, Eliz., Vol. 14, No. 24*) taken at Peterboro' 19 Oct. 1560, before Robt. Webb, esq., escheator, the jury found that Charles B. was his son & heir aged 15 years on the feast of St. Andrew next coming (Nov. 30). Died, seized in fee of the Manor of Norborowe als Norbrugh, 12 messuages, 12 cottages, 20 gardens, 240a. land, 40a. meadow, 50a. pasture, 10a. wood, & 12s rent with appurts in Norborowe als Norbrugh, estates at Maxey, Nunton,

Lolham, & Deepingate holden of the Queen by Knights service. *Bridges, Northamptonshire, Vol. 2, p. 529*, says these estates were held of the Bp. of Peterboro' by Knts service which he left to his son Charles a minor, 15 years old. On his dec. s. p. 6 Elizabeth the premises came to his brother John, draper, of London, who sold them in 1572 to James Claypole esq [who had a grant of arms & crest from Robt. Cooke, Clar. 17 June 1583 (25 Eliz.) d. 1599, bur. at Northboro'. John C., a descendant mar. Elizab. Cromwell the favourite da. of the Protector]. John Brown, father to Charles made his will 8 Mch 1559-60 pr. in P.C.C. 13 May 1560 (Reg. 29 Melhershe). I John Browne, esq., of Narburgh, co. Northampton, esq. Body to be buried in such place & in such manner as shall be thought most convenient to my executor. To my eldest son Charles Browne my manor of Narborow als Narboroughe co. Northampton, with the hamlet of Deepingate, Maxey, Glinton, Eaton (Etton), Nunton, & one close called Ote close with all the rest of my lands lying within the manor of Norburgh & common fields of the same. Also goods and chattels, except such as I give by this my last will, with a brooch of gold having an image of a Xpofer in it being my lease of Swins meadow in the county of Lincoln during the term thereof for his preferment in learning. To my youngest son, John Browne, a tablet of gold, on the one side a bleu garfire set in a collet of gold compassed about with 15 small pearls & one greater, & on the other side enameled black with a A & a T graven in the middle, also all such cattle known by the name of Johnes cow or Johnes ewe. Finally I bequeath to the poor of Narborow als Narboroughe 20s to be distributed to the very poor people at such convenient time as to my executor shall be thought best. Nephew Robt. Browne, of Walcote, co. Northampton, esq., executor, & for overseer I earnestly desire the right worshipful Sir Walter Mildmay, Knt., to undertake the same. Witnesses R. Bernard, Robt. Hall, Henry Atkinson, Clk., Richd. Crosse. Elizabeth Browne of Walcot, co. Northampton (wid.) by will dated 12 Apl 1565 pr. 5 Aug 1573 in P.C.C. (Reg. 26 Peter), Desires body to be bur. in the parish church of Barnack. To my son Robt. B. 40l. To my

daus. Isabel & Frances, each 40*l*. To the poor people of Barnack to be bestowed at my burial 10*l* which sum is in the hands of Sir (*sic*) Robt. B. To my son Humph. B. my bed which I lie in with the furniture belonging. To my sons Humphrey & Thomas my sheep that is in Leicestershire which be in number 110. To my da. Margaret 1 gown of black cloth garded with velvet. To my two daughter's Isabel & Frances 2 pairs of flaxen sheets each. To my son Thomas B. rest of goods & sole executor. Witnesses to signature of testatrix, Humphrey Browne, John Antwessel, Ant. Waters, Wa(1)ter, Skeler, Nichs. Cherwight, & others. Robert Brown, erroneously designated *Sir* in his mother's will quoted above, made his will 14 (or 17) Oct. 12 Elizabeth (1572) pr. relict Margaret, in P.C.C. 14 Feb. 1572-3 (Reg. 7. Peter) from which it appears he died before his mother. \*

The 14 Oct., 12 Elizabeth. I Robert Brown of Walcott, co. Northampton, esq., sick in body &c. To my wife (Margaret) for life all my lands & tenements towards payment of my debts, & after her decease the same to my son William & his heirs, for lack of such, to son Robert & his heirs, and in default to the right heirs of testator. My wife, for life, to receive yearly out of my lands & tenements being at or near Charing Cross in the suburbs of London, the which I have on lease, 40*l* till the sum of 300*l* shall be received. I give the same to my dau. Judith for & towards her preferment, & after that sum is received, I give the same lease to my wife for the remainder of the term for the payment of my debts, & at her death to revert to my son William. All my interest in the parsonage of Peakirk to my son Robert, but wife to receive the profits till Robert attains the age of 24 years for his & my other childrens maintenance. Item to my wife for the next 12 years after my dec. all my houses, lands &c. in London for the payment of debts, & at the end of that term to revert to my son William. To my son Robert, 2 geldings, 3 bedsteads, 3 feather beds with all their furniture. To my son William all my other

\* The early par. regs. of Barnack are lost, but extracts from an old book dated 1599 are in the Lansdown M.S. 991 (Bp. Kennett's collections) Brit. Mus., and will prove of much service later on.

beds, hangings, brass, pewter, tables, forms, & all furniture & implements of my 2 houses here providing that my wife shall use & occupy the same for life. To my son Robt. 10*l* yearly payable out of my lands &c. To my servant, John Waters 6 ewes, & 6 more to my company keeper. To my maid Alice 40*s*, Henry Shippe, 40*s*; & to Alice Bell 13*s* 4*d*. If my dau. Judith dies during her minority, the said 300*l* to revert to my son Robert. To my wife all my plate, jewels &c. unbequeathed for payment of debts. Ordains wife, good friend Lady Harrington, & my very (good) friends M<sup>r</sup> Thos. Cecil [Knted at Kenilworth, 1575, Governor of Brill 1585, K.G. 1601, cr. (first) Earl of Exeter 4 May 1605, d. 7 Feb. 1621-2, bur. in Westminster Abbey] & Fras. Harrington (of Witham) esq., executors. To my sister Hall (? of Gretford) 6*l* 13*s* 4*d*, Agnes Fletcher, 20*s*; unto old Agnes, 30*s*; my servant, Roger, 20*s*. Witnesses, John Freere, Barnard Whitestons, Humph. Browne, Thos. Browne, Anthony Lister. Testator, mar. Margaret, da. & heir of Philip Barnard of Aldenham, & relict of Sir Barnard Whetstone, of Woodford-row, Essex. \*

1603-4 Sir William Brown, K<sup>t</sup> of the honourable order of the Bath, bur. XX Feb. *Barnack regs.* Testator, eldest son of Robt. whose will is given above was Knighted at the wholesale creation of that order at the coronation of James 1st in 1603. His will, undated, pr. in P.C.C. 16 Mch. 1603-4 (Reg. 44 Hart) in which he designated himself as William Browne, of Wallcot (Walcot) co. Northampton, Knight of the Honourable order of the Bath. Constitutes wife Lady Elizabeth Browne sole executrix. (Her burial is not recorded in the Barnack reg.) To my brother Robert Ball the debt & money due to me by the Lord Burleigh (Tho. Cecil, 2nd Baron & 1st Earl of Exeter) by bond or bill. Whereas Sir William Fitzwilliams, of Milton, co. Northampton, Knt., is indebted to me in the sum of 120*l*. I give out of it 100*l* to my brother Robt. B. and the odd 20*l* to my wife. I remit unto Fras. Covell of Hinthorpe (Inthorpe, Rutland) all

\* I have several entries respecting the Whitstons of Barnack from the par. regs., also wills which will form a supplement to my paper.

the debt he is indebted to me, viz. 12*l*. To Mr John Browne, of Bourn (descended from the Stamford family, Merchants of the Callis), co. Lincoln, 20*l*, or my best horse at his choice. To the right honourable the Lord of Burleigh and the right honourable Lady Burleigh his wife as a pledge of the love born unto their house one peice of plate betwixt them. Requests Lord Burleigh to protect in all good causes my dear & loving wife the Lady Elizabeth B. To all my wifes children a peice of plate of 10*l* price. To my two brothers, Sir Barnard Whetstones, & Robert Whetstones, & to the wife of the said Rob. W. 5*l* each. To Francis Boudier, now an apprentice unto Mr (Robt.) Meddowes, of Stanton (Stamford, Mercer) at the expiration of his apprenticeship 50*l*. In the declaration of the value of his will (Reg. 36 Stafford, in P.C.C.) it states that he gave 100*l* to the poor people of the town of Barnack.

JUSTIN SIMPSON, Stamford.

*To be continued.*

**232.—Windsor Great Park owned by a Wisbechian.**—The *Wisbech Advertiser* is responsible for the following :—

It may not be generally known that Windsor Great Park, the site of Her Majesty's residence, was once the property of a Wisbechian, who purchased it in the reign of Charles I. From a Windsor paper which has been put into our hands, it appears that in a lecture delivered a few days since in the Royal borough on "the History of Windsor Great Park and Forest," Mr. Menzies, of Egham, alluded to this fact in the following terms :—

During Charles I.'s reign the Great Park at Windsor underwent many changes, and the common people and soldiers were guilty of riotous and disorderly conduct in destroying the deer, cutting the wood, and similar misdemeanours. In 1648 a survey was made of the Park, with a view to letting or selling it. In 1650 a fee simple of the whole was agreed to be sold on behalf of the regiment under the command of Col. Desbrow, to Edward Scatter, of Wisbech, in the Isle of Ely, at fourteen years' purchase of the annual value, together with the deer and all the

timber which had not been marked for the navy. The total purchase money was £22,755, but there appears to be no record of this amount having been paid. By order, passed in 1660, however, it would appear that considerable tracts had been absolutely parted with at small yearly rents, and that regular farms existed in the Park, the plough furrows being still visible in many places.

Who was Edward Scatter, of Wisbech? Ancient records do not appear to mention such a name, although there was a "Scotred" which has some resemblance to the name.

**233.—History of Soham, (by the Rev. J. R. Olorenshaw).—**

**THE BELLS.**

Entries occur from time to time in the Churchwardens' accounts pointing to various repairs made to bells, bell wheels, frames, &c., and to the repair of old bell ropes and the purchase of new ones. In 1663 four bell ropes are charged for, costing 13/9; and at intervals between 1674 and 1694, five new ropes were procured, the price being about 3/- each; but whether these later entries can be taken to determine the number of the bells is uncertain, probably there were 6 bells at this time. New wheels and brasses were put to the bells in 1676 at a cost of about £14.

In 1694, 120lbs. of metal were added to the "greate bell" by Charles Newman of Haddenham, at an expense of £27/12/0; the terms of the contract being settled at "ye Bull" with the help of half-a-crown's worth of ale and wine. A new clapper weighing 38 lbs. at 10d. per lb. was put to the fourth bell in 1699, and the clappers of the fourth and fifth bells were repaired in 1701 at a cost of £2/15/0. In 1706 the third bell was taken to Bury and was proved and "runned" at an expenditure of £8/13/0, besides 4/- for "drink for the helpers at taking down," and an allowance of 2/- to Isaac Hurst for "damage done to the clock," and sundry other expenses. This work does not appear to have been carried out with sufficient promptitude, for we find the following entry, "paid court fees, the bell not being run'd in due time, 2/8."

In 1709 some, or all, of the bells were taken down and repaired, as is shewn by these entries:—"For carrying of the bells to

Fulbourne and expenses, for ourselves, horses, and men, being out two nights, and bringing ym back agen, £1/15/0." Paid Mr. Waylott "part of ye charge of Running the bells, £20;" (the balance £7, was paid in 1710). Drink to the value of £1/8/0 was consumed at "John Goldsberough's for ye ringers, and with ye bell founder;" and £1/6/0 was paid Edmd. Rumbelow for drink and for "the use of his steyliards to weigh the bells by." The journey was not completed without some little difficulty, for Mr. Plummer was allowed half-a-crown towards the repair of his wagon shafts which were broken on the way to Fulbourne. Mr. Clack, Churchwarden in 1726, made a journey to Newmarket to get the clapper of the great bell repaired, two of the bells having had new clappers put to them in the preceding year. In 1755 a new frame for the bells was fitted up at a cost of £29 odd. The accounts for 1757 contain this entry, "Money to be collected for the bells, £36/13/4," but no particulars are given as to the character of the work done.

At the Easter Vestry meeting in 1783 the "principal inhabitants of the parish of Soham" agreed and ordered that the bells be re-cast and a sufficient quantity of new metal be added to make a peal of 8 bells, provided the feoffees of Mr. Bond's feoffment paid the sum of £85 in their hands and due to the Church, towards the expense of re-casting, &c. A subscription was also to be entered into for the same purpose and any deficiency was to be raised by rate. A counter proposal that the bells be re-cast into a peal of 6 bells only, met with no support. The project, however, seems to have fallen through for a time, for on Easter Monday, March 24th, 1788, the matter was again brought forward and the following resolution passed:—"Whereas, at the general vestry meeting of the principal inhabitants of the parish of Soham, the present bad state of the bells has been taken into consideration, the Tenor being split, and the other bells of so bad a tone that it is the opinion of Mr. Osbourn, bell founder, the work cannot be well completed without re-casting them, and whereas there is in the hands of the feoffees of Bond's Charity a balance of £120 to be appropriated to the repairs of the said parish Church," it was

agreed that if the feoffees would undertake the work, the deficiency should be made up by rate. At a further meeting on May 26th, 1788, the Churchwardens, William Pechy and William Sizer, were directed to agree with Thomas Osbourn of Downham to re-cast the bells. Another meeting was held on October 12th in the same year, "to take the opinion of the parishioners whether they were satisfied as to the goodness of the 6 new bells," and it was unanimously agreed by the inhabitants then present "that the bells are very good ones and give general satisfaction;" and the Churchwardens were directed to pay Mr. Osbourn according to the contract. In 1790 it was ordered, at the usual Easter Meeting, that the Churchwardens, William Pechey and John Yarrow, "do as soon as conveniently may be, agree with Mr. Osbourn of Downham for putting up 2 new bells in the parish church steeple at as little expence to the parish as the nature of the work will admit," the feoffees of Bond's Charity agreeing to pay the balance due to the Church into the hands of the Churchwardens.

The accounts for the years 1788 and 1790 furnish the following details respecting the bells and expenses:—

1788.—6 new bells weight as under:—(These are the present bells, but Nos. 5 to 10; four smaller ones having been added).

1st—8cwts. 0qrs. 5lbs.; 2nd—8cwts. 1qr. 2lbs.; 3rd—9cwt. 3qrs. 0lbs.; 4th—10cwts. 2qrs. 20lbs.; 5th—13cwts. 2qrs. 17lb.; 6th—19cwts. 3qrs. 3lbs.; 70cwts. 0qrs. 19lbs. at £5 12s. 0d. per cwt., £392 19s. 0d.; 6 Clappers—154lbs. at 9d. per lb., £5 15s. 6d. Hanging, as by agreement, £30 0s. 0d.; Total £428 14s. 6d.;

Received by 6 old bells weight as under:—1st—5cwts. 2qrs. 4lb.; 2nd—7cwts. 3qrs. 0lbs.; 3rd—8cwt. 1qr. 14lbs.; 4th—9cwts. 2qrs. 14lbs.; 5th—11cwts. 2qrs. 8lbs.; 6th—17cwts. 1qr. 6lbs.; \*60cwts. 0qrs. 18lbs at £4 4s. 0d. per cwt., £254 5s. 0d.; Received of Bond's feoffees, £120 0s. 0d.; Total £374 5s. 0d.; Balance £54 9s. 6d.

Preparing the frame for the new bells cost £22 12s. 11d., besides sundry expenses for bell-ropes, iron work, &c., and Mr.

\* A slight error was made in the accounts, the weight being reckoned at 60cwts. 2qrs. 4lbs.



Rignal at the "White Lion" was paid five shillings "for the Cambridge ringers."

1790.—Two New Bells weighing together 15cwts., at £5 12s. 0d.; £84 0s. 0d.; Two clappers weighing 43lbs. at 9d.; £1 12s. 3d.; Hanging, &c., £11 3s. 0d.; Total £96 15s. 3d.

Received: Collected by Subscription £20 0s. 0d.; From Bond's Feoffees £50 0s. 0d.; Total £70 0s. 0d.; Balance £26 15s. 3d.

In 1807 subscriptions were raised towards the expense of two new bells to make a peal of 10. The amount collected was £66 9s. 4d., of which sum the company of ringers, fifteen in all, (five of them being members of the Tebbit family,) subscribed or collected £20, Bond's feoffees paid £10 17s. 8d., and the old lead and old bell frames realized £8 5s. 6d.

The Tenor bell was re-hung in 1861 and a new stock, &c., provided at a cost of £5 or £6, and repairs effected in connection with some of the other bells at an expenditure of £10.

Besides the occasions on which merry peals were rung on the bells already referred to, we find the following references to the bells in the Churchwardens' account books: In 1677, Thos. Chambers, junr., was paid £1 8s. 0d. for ringing the "eight-a-clock" bell; at a Vestry Meeting held on Easter Monday, March 28, 1796, it was agreed that, as £2 was not a reasonable salary for the Sexton, (Mrs. Tebbit) for ringing the bell at four in morning and eight in the evening, £3 be allowed her yearly in the future; and in 1812 it was ordered that £5 be paid to Thomas Tebbit for ringing the night and morning bell as usual. In 1814 the following order was made: that £13 a year be paid to Thomas Tebbit for chiming the bells on Sundays and other times, winding up the town clock, tolling the bell in time of harvest, and for ringing the bell night and morning throughout the year (Sundays excepted) at such times as should be required by the parish officers.

The bells bear the following inscriptions:—

Nos. 1 and 2.—Revnd. H. Fisher, Vicar; J. Dobede, and R. Tebbet, C. W. J. Briant, Hertford, Fecit ✠ New by subscriptions 1808.

Nos. 3 and 4.—H. Fisher, Vicar ; J. Dobede, and R. Tebbet, C. W. John Briant, Hertford, Fecit ✠ Re-cast by subscription, 1808.

No. 5.—Cum Voco Venite : T. Osborn, Fecit 1788.

No. 6.—T. Osborn, Fecit J788. (1788). Laudate Nomen.

No. 7.—T. Osborn, Downham, Norfolk, Fecit J788. Wm. Pechy, Wm. Sizer, Churchwardens.

No. 8.—Wm. Pechy and Wm. Sizer, Churchwardens. T. Osborn, Fecit J788.

No. 9.—In Wedlock's bands all ye who join,

With hands your hearts unite,

So shall our tune full tongues combine,

To laud the nuptial rite.\*

Thos. Osborn, Fecit J788.

No. 10.—The Feoffees of Bond's Charity paid 120 Pounds towards the casting of these Bells. T. Osborn, Fecit J788.

The following records of change ringing are copied from the lists hung in the belfry :—

Peals rung in this tower by the Society of Soham Youths. October 25th, 1790. 5120 changes of Oxford Treble Bob, in 3 hours and 33 minutes. 1st Bell, Thos. Tebbit ; 2nd, Lk. Goldsbrow ; 3rd, Rt. Tebbit ; 4th, Jh. Finch ; 5th, Ed. Tebbit ; 6th, Rt. Silver ; 7th, Thos. Talbot ; 8th, Thos. Brown.

1st January, 1795, 5040 changes of Norwich Court in 3 hours and 30 minutes. 1st Bell, Ed. Tebbit ; 2nd, Thos. Tebbit ; 3rd, Rt. Chevis ; 4th, Thos. Tebbit, junior ; 5th, Robert Tebbit ; 6th, Lk. Goldsbrow ; 7th, Rt. Silver ; 8th, Thos. Brown.

17th February, 1800. 5152 changes of Imperial the Third, in 3 hours and 34 minutes. 1st Bell, Thos. Tebbit ; 2nd, Lk. Goldsbrow ; 3rd, Jh. Finch ; 4th, Thos. Tebbit, junior ; 5th, Rt. Tebbit ; 6th, Rt. Chevis ; 7th, Thos. Talbot ; 8th, Rt. Silver.

A complete peal was rung in this tower by three brothers and their sons, of the Society of Soham Youths, on November 20, 1809. 5280 changes of Oxford Treble Bob, in 3 hours and 35

\* A similar inscription is found on one of the bells in the Church at Kendal, Westmoreland.

minutes. 1st Bell, Thos. Tebbit ; 2nd, Robert Tebbit, (son of Robert) ; 3rd, Benjamin Tebbit, (15 years old) ; 4th, John Tebbit, (son of Thomas) ; 5th, Robt. Tebbit ; 6th, Edward Tebbit ; 7th, Thos. Tebbit (son of Thos.) ; 8th, William Tebbit (son of Thos.)

In honour of the Queen's acquittal a complete peal was rung by members of the Society of Soham Youths on November 16, 1820. 5040 changes Oxford Treble Bob Royal in 3 hours and 43 minutes. 1st Bell, Thos. Tebbit ; 2nd, William Tebbit ; 3rd, Robt. Tebbit ; 4th, Robt. Staples ; 5th, Thos. Tebbit, junior ; 6th, Robert Talbot ; 7th, Jas. Seaber ; 8th, Benjamin Tebbit ; 9th, Thos. Tebbit ; 10th, John West.

New Treble Bob Royal, 5040 changes, was rung in this tower, 23rd November, 1821, in 3 hours and 41 minutes. 1st Bell, William Tebbit ; 2nd, Robert Tebbit ; 3rd, Robert Talbot ; 4th, Robert Staples ; 5th, Thomas Tebbit, junior ; 6th, John Tebbit ; 7th, Jas. Seaber ; 8th, Robert Chevis ; 9th, Benjamin Tebbit ; 10th, John West.

Ten of the Society of Soham Youths rung in this tower, Feb. 22nd, 1830, in 3 hours and 35 minutes, a complete peal containing 5003 changes of Grandsire Tittum Caters ; performed the first attempt, conducted by W. Tebbit. Ringers :—W. Tebbit, J. Tebbit, R. Tebbit, R. Staples, T. Tebbit, junior, C. Elsdon, J. Seaber, R. Chives, C. Spring, J. West.

#### THE CLOCK.

An entry in the oldest of the Parish Registers speaks of a clock in the Church (apparently in the tower) in the year 1601. In 1664 "Gadge the knacker" was paid 6/6 for "lines" for the clock, this being the first reference met with in the Churchwardens' account book. From 1667 to 1689 various charges are entered for "keeping," "scouring," and mending the clock, and for "wyer" and "lines." In 1700 a new clock and dial were purchased of "Joseph Filleps" (Phillips) at a cost of £19/10/0 ; and there were other expenses attending the erection of scaffolding, &c. Some dispute appears to have arisen respecting the way in which the work was carried out, for 5/- was spent at Newmarket

"about ye too Arbitraters concerning ye clock," 2/- for an "arbitration bond," and 3/- to "a man judging the clock and condemning;" the precaution having been taken beforehand of "drawing artickels when ye clock was bargined for."

On May 9th, 1701, it was agreed by the inhabitants that Robert Crow "shall have twenty shillings a yeare for keepinge the clock, *if he doe it well*:" but this arrangement did not continue in force very long, for in 1704 an agreement was made with Isaac Hurst to look after the clock for *five* shillings a year. Some different plan appears to have been adopted in 1711, two shillings and sixpence being then expended with the Ely clock maker "and severall of ye townspeople about putting out Church Clock." In 1717 Robert Crow was again placed in charge, and seems to have continued to look after the clock until 1723, when Augustin Holland received £1/2/6 for half-a-year's salary for attending to it. Various necessary repairs were carried out in the following years, Robert Bemington receiving 15/- per annum 'for the clock.'

In 1752 the clock was taken to Cambridge for repairs, the cost being £6/8/0, and two shillings' worth of beer was consumed at the same time.

In 1758 a formal agreement was made with William Burroughs, whitesmith, of Chippenham, that "he should maintain and keep in going the parish clock of Soham in good and sufficient repair for the term of ten years at the yearly sum of ten shillings and sixpence." A similar agreement was entered into with Edward Burroughs, of Fordham, in 1771, for ten years at the same rate.

In 1773 a new dial plate was procured from London, the plate, with painting and gilding, cost £36; various other expenses were incurred in the removal of the clock for the purpose of refixing it to the new plate, &c. In 1814 the plate was regilded at an expense of £8 or £9.

The present clock is said to have been procured from one of the colleges of Cambridge, and before the restoration of the Church it required to be wound once in 8 days only, but owing to the removal of the west gallery less space was found for the

weights, and it now has to be wound every 3 days. It strikes the hours only. The Clock Bell, on the top of the Church Tower, bears the inscription, "T. Mears, of London, Fecit 1826."

*To be continued.*

**234.—Parochial Certificates.**—When looking through old vestry books I have frequently come across entries relating to certain certificates received by the parish officers from various persons, and afterwards preserved amongst the parochial documents. For instance, at the commencement of the oldest Churchwardens' book at Ware, amongst several others, is an entry in the following terms:—

August y<sup>o</sup> 2 1708—Received then & laide up in y<sup>e</sup> Chest in y<sup>e</sup> Vestry Richard Marten & his wife Certifycate from y<sup>e</sup> parish Stausted Mount Fitshet.

Later on in the same book I found the following item:—

Criss<sup>r</sup> Blackwells Certificate from Overton Longvile Huntingt-  
tonshire June y<sup>e</sup> 6 1726.

What were these certificates?

CHAS. E. DAWES.

**235.—Fenland Briefs.**—A short time ago there appeared in the columns of *The Hertfordshire Mercury* an article from the pen of a local writer, giving a list of the briefs read in the Parish Church of Bishop's Hatfield. The information was gathered from records of these collections kept amongst the parochial registers between the years 1663 and 1717. A few of the briefs were issued on behalf of sufferers in the Fenland, and these, when compared with others referred to in the registers of parishes in this district, may perhaps prove of historical value, so it may not be out of place to reproduce the items in this journal. The entries from the Hatfield records are unfortunately for the most part given in a contracted form.

"ffor John Ellis of Milton in the County of Cambridge

. . . . . July 5<sup>th</sup> 1663 . . . . . 00-19-09."

Nov. 6th, 1664. "ffor Edward Christian of Grantham."

June 2nd, 1668. "for Hinxton in Cabridgeshire . . . .  
00-12-00."

- Sept. 23rd, 1670. "for Copenham [Cottenham?] in Cambridge . . . . . £0 13 1<sup>d</sup>."
- April 6th, 1684. "for y<sup>e</sup> Isle of Ely 0-17-6½."
- Jan., 1685. "for Market Deeping in Lincolnshire 00-15-5½<sup>d</sup>."
- Aug. 29th, 1686. "for y<sup>e</sup> Parish of Aynsbury in Huntingdon 00-15-03."
- April 2nd, 1693. "for Elseworth Fire in Cambridge Shire . . . . . 00-10-09¼."
- Dec. 1st, 1695. "for Grandcester in Cambshire 00-03-04."
- Nov. 29th, 1696. "for a Loss by fire at Stretham in Isle of Ely 00-05-08."
- Nov. 6th, 1697. "for a Loss by fire at Soham in Cambridge Shire 00-08-09."
- Aug. 24th, 1701. "for y<sup>e</sup> Brief for Ely Cathedral 1-5-2½."
- Dec. 10th, 1702. "for y<sup>e</sup> Brief for Ely 00-15-00 . . . . . St. Mary's Parish in Ely."
- Sept. 16th, 1706. "for Chatteris in the Isle of Ely . . . . . 00-09-10."
- June 29th, 1707. "Little Port in the Isle of Ely . . . . . 00-09-06."
- June 6th, 1708. "for Alconbury cum Weston . . . . . Huntingdon . . . 00-11-02."
- June 13th, 1714. "Bottisham (Cambs) 00-10-01."

CHAS. E. DAWES.

236.—**Edward Elton, B.D.**—I am seeking information regarding the ancestry of the Rev. Edward Elton, B.D., who in 1623 was Minister of St. Mary Magdalene Church, Bermondsey, and the author of various theological treatises, and shall be obliged if any correspondent can supply even the smallest details. I am acquainted with his works, and seek only information regarding himself or his family. A religious treatise by John Brinsley, published in the early part of the 17th century, was furnished with "a commendatorie epistle" by the Rev. E. Elton; and from this it appears that the latter came from the Fen country, of

which also Brinsley was a native. Elton, referring to Brinsley, says : " For the Author himself, though I have knowne him from my childhood, being borne neere unto him, brought up in the same Grammar Schoole, and after in the same College in Cambridge " &c.

It appears that Brinsley was a noted Grammarian, sometime a Schoolmaster and Minister in Great Yarmouth, circa 1636.

Can the Grammar School or the College mentioned by Elton be identified by anyone who is acquainted with the facts of Brinsley's life ?

B.

**237.—Huntingdonshire Manors, 1585.**—Amongst the papers preserved in Lord Salisbury's library at Hatfield House is a letter from Lord Burghley to Francis Cromwell and others, dated September 6th, 1585. This letter desires those in receipt of it to aid, further, and assist one John Hexham, who, by the authority of Thomas Gorges, Esq., is about to make a survey of the manors of St. Ives, Hemingford Grange (*sic*), Hemingford Abbott, and Houghton with Witton, which the said Thomas Gorges holds jointly with the Marchioness of Northampton, the reversion thereto belonging to her Majesty in right of her crown.

CHAS. E. DAWES.

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END OF VOL. I.